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SATURDAY MARCH 8 1997





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Helplines set up for mothers

# Alert for 1,700 women over HIV doctor

By JEREMY LAURANCE AND STEPHEN FARRELL

MORE than 1,700 women were offered HIV tests yesterday after a junior doctor who helped to deliver their babies and carry out hysterectomies was found to be infected with the Aids virus.

The doctor, whose identity and sex has not been revealed, worked at four hospitals in Gloucestershire and Essex between February 1991 and January this year. The doctor told authorities about the infection after discovering it last month.

The records of 50,000 patients were checked and yesterday the health authorities began contacting those who were felt to be at any risk. They are being offered counselling and HIV testing, and helplines have been set up to

provide advice. Medical experts insisted that the chances of any patient being infected were extremely. HIV testing for doctors low and there was no risk at all of the virus being transmitted to babies.

The doctor worked at the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital from February 1991 until October 1993: King George Hospital: Redbridge, Essex, from August 1993 until Pebruary 1995; Whipps Cross Hos-pital, Waltham Forest, Essex, from March 1995 until January this year, apart from last March: and at Southend Hospital from March 1996 to October 1996.

Dr Georgia Duckworth, regional epidemiologist for

North Thames told a press conference yesterday that the 1.752 women being contacted had undergone Caesareans, major gynaecological surgery or complicated vaginal deliveries involving forceps and

The case is the second involving an obstetrician this year, and over the past decade more than a dozen British healthcare workers have been found to be infected with HIV. But in no case has the infection been passed to a patient.

Dr Duckworth emphasised the low risk of transmission, pointing out that there had been only two reported instances anywhere in the world of a healthcare worker infect-

Nevertheless, the Director of the Conservative Family Institute called for compulsory particularly those from countries where Aids is endemic while the Patients Association said that the intected doctor should be named.

Dr Adrian Rogers, an Exe-ter GP, said: The case for testing is becoming unanswerable. It is becoming an embarrassment for the health service that these scares keep crop-

Dr Rogers, who will stand as a Tory candidate in the general election, said that he had written to the Health Secretary last month after the death from Aids of the Nigerian obstetrician Olukayode Fasawe who had worked in three British hospitals. "J know there is reluctance in the profession because of a misplaced sense of politicial correctness. We should introduce tests for all migrant doctors the highest risk group."

But the British Medical Association said that would be a misuse of public money. Doctors were at much greater risk of being infected by patients than the other way could provide a false reassurance because the person tested may have been very recently infected and it can take up to three months to show a positive result. Equally, the person could be exposed to an HIV risk after the test."

The Health Department said that because the overall risk of transmission was very small, routine testing could not be justified. The Patients Association

meanwhile protested that the doctor's identity was being concealed. But NHS managers insisted that maintaining confidentiality was essential to avoid deterring other doctors who may be infected in the future from coming forward.

The hotline for worried patients in London and Essex is 0800 146271 and the one for Gloucestershire patients is 0800 146091. Calls are free.

Dr Stuttaford, page 2



# History teacher bones up on ancestor

A HISTORY teacher at a Somerset school discovered yesterday that he had a Stone Age ancestor who lived 9,000 years ago. Genetic tests on Cheddar Man, a young hunter-gatherer whose well-preserved skeleton was discovered in the Cheddar Caves in 1903, have established a link to Adrian Targett, 42, a teacher at Kings of

Wessex Community School in Cheddar. The remarkable discovery was made after Philip Priestley, a television producer, asked the Institute of Molecular Medicine in Oxford to carry out tests on samples of DNA taken from the skeleton.

which is now in the Natural History moment. I'm just wondering how I can Museum in London. The results are to be broadcast as part of a series on archaeolo-

gy in Somerset later this year. Samples were also taken from children and teachers at schools in the Cheddar area, and from people whose families had been in the area for generations. To the astonishment of the scientists, a close match was found between Cheddar Man and Mr Targett, proving that they are linked through the female line of descent. Yesterday, after the news was broken to

him, Mr Targett said: "I'm absolutely overwhelmed. It is very strange news to receive. I'm not sure how I feel at the

work Cheddar Man into rise of the Nazis."

The Oxford team studied mitochondrial DNA, the kind found in parts of the cells used for generating energy. Unlike nuclear DNA, which carries genes from mothers and fathers, mitochondrial DNA is inherited unchanged down the maternal line. It was used, for example, to prove that bones found in a pit in Russia were those of the murdered Romanovs. the

Russian royal family.
Mitochondrial DNA is more plentiful and easier to recover from ancient bones Continued on page 2, col 5



Cheddar Man's skull

#### Littlewoods halts Freemans talks

Liffewoods, the pools and retailing group has broken off negotiations to buy the £395 million Freemans shall order business from Sears. The move could start a bidding scramble for Freemans and leaves Littlewoods own development plans in disarray Pages 25, 28

## Paedophile jailed

Keith Laverack, 52, a senior social services manager, was jailed for 18 years at Chester Crown Court after 15 sexual aults against children in Page 3

#### Penalty kick

Subbuteo, the table-top foothall game invented at Tun-bridge Wells in 1947, is no longer to be made in Britain. 250 jobs will be lost. Page 25

the Times on the Internet



# Blair pledges food agency as 'consumer's champion'

By JILL SHERMAN, POLLY NEWTON, MICHAEL HORSNELL AND VALERIE ELLIOTT

TONY BLAIR exploited Cabinet tensions over the food safety scare as he announced last night that if a Labour government were elected it would set up an independent food standards agency.

The Labour leader has appointed Professor Philip James, director of the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen, to ensure that the proposed agency will operate openly and transparently".

Professor James said that the agency would report to the Department of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, although he suggested that Health might take the lead

responsibility. Speaking at the Scottish Labour Party Conference in the Scottish Secretary, was Inverness, Mr Blair said: "The case is now unanswerable for a powerful food standards agency which sees its task as being the consumer's champion. No more cover-ups."

He said that at present responsibility for food safety was scattered through 43 different quangos in three minis-tries. The consumer always comes second. That cannot be allowed to continue."

In the meantime, sniping continued between govern-ment departments over the handling of the unpublished report on hygiene in the meat industry. Although John Ma-jor said it was "ludicrous" to suggest that Michael Forsyth. enraged by the Agriculture Ministry's decision not to pass on the report, the two departments continued to make clear that each believed the other to

be in the wrong.

Last night it was disclosed that six people have been infected by the E. coli hacterium after eating at a motel in Lincoln. Two women, one of them elderly, were said to be poorly" in hospital.

Despite the present difficulties, however, it seems clear that the Agriculture Ministry will survive after the election. Senior civil servants argue that Britain needs a separate Ministry to ensure that it keeps its clout in Europe.



## Judge blames EU ban on caning for juvenile crimes

By JOANNA BALE

A JUDGE condemned European Union laws against corporal punishment and the rise in single-parent families as he sent two young arsonists to a secure unit yesterday.

Sentencing the boys, aged ten and 13, to two and a half years. Judge Rodwell QC said n Luton Crown Court that the abolition of corporal punish-ment in schools had left teachers unable to discipline unruly youngsters, leading to an increase in delinquency.

The boys, who cannot be named for legal reasons, set fire to a neighbour's house as they roamed the streets of a council estate after being expelled from school.

Judge Rodwell said: "With the best intention in the world corporal punishment has been abolished and indeed that is a requirement of the EU. But this has resulted in an

extremely unsatisfactory situation. Nobody wants children to be flogged but it is no longer possible for a teacher to deal with even a minor incident by a cuff round the car or a smack on the hand, which is swift and something the child entirely understands and stops minor incidents

"If the child does not respond to being told not to bring gin into school or beat his mates up the teacher has to go through discipline proce-

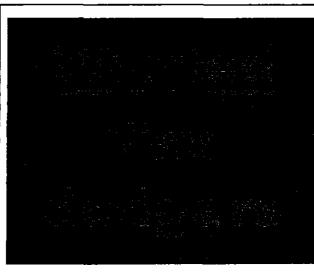
dures are followed a great deal of verbiage comes out which may satisfy the intelligent niceties of eductionists but has no impact on a great number of children. Suspension is hardly a sanction."

The judge expressed concern over single-parent families, and said that children needed two parents. The boys had both come from broken homes. He said: "Both children come from homes where a father for a lot of the time was not present. It is often said that in single-parent homes children can be given as much love as they need but that is not the

During their trial last month the court was told that the two boys were among a gang of children who harassed the Smith family on the Downside estate, Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

One day, the boys put paper through the letter box and tried to set light to it, but failed. Then a woman neighbour, described by the judge as "the neighbour from hell". lent them a lighter so they kicked the door in and started a fire on a hall table.

The blaze left the house uninhabitable, causing £4,000 damage to the building and destroying virtually everything the family owned. The boys denied arson.



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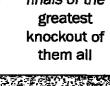
#### PRIMARY **SCHOOLS** REPORT

Starting on Monday: your week-long



#### Chelsea go to

Portsmouth in the quarter finals of the greatest





# Blair rallies Scottish party for battle ahead

TONY BLAIR yesterday urged critics of his "new Labour" project to trust him to transform the country as he had his own party.

The Labour leader warned his party against complacency, after an opinion poll yesterday showed Labour with a 26 point lead over the Tories. "We are doing well but we take nothing for granted," he told the Scottish Labour Party Conference in Inverness.

Mr Blair argued that Labour could make huge changes in government even within tight spending constraints. There is nothing that makes me more angry than when people say there's no difference between the parties," he said. Labour would use the same pot of money, but spend it differently - on improving health and education services and on law and order. "The public sector spends £320 bil-lion a year. Dont let anyone tell me we can't spend that money differently."

Scottish party activists are unhappy with Gordon Brown's announcement that, as Chancellor, he would not raise income tax rates and that he would stick to Kenneth Clarke's current overall expenditure figures. The Campaign for Socialism has put out a leaflet accusing Mr Blair of

suppressing dissent. Last night old Labour activists were voted off the party's Scottish executive and replaced by Blairite candidates, giving Mr Blair for the first time a majority of supporters on the committee.

Using probably his last big speech before the general elec-tion campaign, Mr Blair said: We run for office as new Labour. We govern as new Labour. No going back to the past. Not old left or new right but a new centre and centreleft agenda for Britain."

Directing his message to the electorate as well as delegates in the hall, Mr Blair spelt out the central differences between the two parties. He reassured activists that he would campaign for two "yes" votes in the referendum on whether a Scottish parliament, with tax-varying powers, should be established.

"Have faith in new Labour and Britain will have faith in



Mary Blair, left, who fostered Tony Blair's father Leo, on the campaign trail

# Socialist birthright was fostered in tenements

By Shirley English

TONY BLAIR'S workingclass roots in the slum tenements of 1920s Glasgow were given a new spin yester-day with claims that Mary Blair, his foster grandmother. was a firebrand socialist.

In a move neatly timed to coincide with the start of the Scottish Labour Party Conference in Inverness, Mr Blair's office released sepia photographs of the matriarch standing on a campaign lorry with the slogan: "Peace and Socialism is Our Aim."

Mary Blair and her husband, James, a Clydeside ship rigger who was seldom well enough to work. lived in the upstairs section of a privately let sandstone tene-

ment. Their home consisted of a kitchen and one other room. They had to share their lavatory, which was downstairs, with 11 other people. In 1925 the Blairs fostered

the illegitimate baby boy of Celia Ridgway and Charles Parsons, travelling entertainers. The child was Leo Blair. the Labour leader's father.

In later life Leo Blair had ambitions to stand as a Conservative candidate, but during the 1930s Depression he was a secretary in the Young Communist League.

He left school at 17 and worked for the Daily Worker newspaper, but when the Second World War started, it was closed down. He then

went to work as a clerk for Glaseow Corporation, during which time he married Hazel McLeay, the daughter of a Glasgow butcher. He joined the Army in 1942, emerged as a major, gained a legal qualification and became a

barrister. In 1969 the local authority began a plan of slum clearance. Tony Blair's grandmother moved into one of the new high-rise blocks. Mr Blair said yesterday that he remembered the move was a

great thing" for her. He said: "That hope and progress has changed for a great number of people in inner cities and that is what

#### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Major to announce nursing care scheme

John Major last night ended a week overshadowed by the row over food safety, worsening poll figures and embarrassing remarks by David Evans, MP, by promising to unveil new policies to distance his party from Labour. Plans to extend private pension provision would be followed by further "original and exciting ideas", he said. Those ideas will include the unveiling on Monday of plans to introduce an insurance scheme to help the elderly pay for nursing care without having to sell their homes. For every Et introduce an insurance scheme to help the elderly pay for nursing care without having to sell their homes. For every £1 of insurance cover, £1.50 worth of assets would be untouched if nursing care was needed. At present, anyone with assets of more than £16,000 must meet the full cost of fees.

#### Unlawful killing verdict

An inquest jury in Retford, Nottinghamshire, returned a verdict of unlawful killing yesterday on a seriously ill pensioner who was given a lethal dose of a substance used in pensioner who was given a lemal dose of a substance used in America to execute prisoners on death row. Karen Bowler, a nurse at Bassellaw District Hospital in Worksop, gave-potassium intravenously to Philip Gregory, 71, instead of orally. She said she believed she had "made a mistake". Inves

#### Picasso hospital clue

Police investigating the theft of a £700,000 Picasso painting from a London art gallery have made checks on a psychiatric hospital close to where the suspected thief was last seen. Theman, who had a sawn-off shotgun, made his getaway from the Lefevre gallery in Mayfair in a taxi after ordering the driver to take him to Wimbledon, southwest London, where he asked to be dropped off near a psychiatric hospital.

#### Author's stepson jailed

The stepson of the late Alistair Maclean was jailed for twoand-a-half years yesterday for a £1.5 million computer fraud. Arthur Curtis Maclean, 40, whose mother married the thriller writer when Arthur was a child, was described at the Old Bailey as a reckless spendthrift who bounced cheques "left, right and centre". He swindled thousands of computer

## Campaign wife widowed

A mother who has fought for 10 years to have the case into her son's death repened discovered her husband's body in the bath at their home in Blackpool. Fred Varma, 54, had multiple knife wounds, but police have ruled out foul play. A motorcyclist was cleared of reckless driving after Dr and Linda Varma's son Christopher, seven, was killed in a road

#### High jumper sent down

Stanley Osuide. Britain's fifth-ranked high jumper. was jailed for six months after he admitted smuggling a Nigerian relative through the Channel Tunnel. He should have been competing yesterday in the World Indoor Championship athletics in Paris, Maidstone Crown Court was told. Osuide has spent nearly the equivalent of the sentence in custody on remand, so he will probably be released soon.

#### **'Boss' honours Ingham**

Baroness Thatcher yesterday conferred an honorary degree on Sir Bernard Ingham, her press secretary for 11 years, at the University of Buckingham, where she is chancellor. She praised Sir Bernard as a man of integrity, saying: The greatest thing about holding great office is that you can choose people of ability because they understand what service to a free country means and they serve you loyally."

#### Kail firms cut services

Privatised train companies have made dozens of illegal cuts in services since taking over BR franchises, a rail lobby group says. Studies by the Railway Development Society of the timetables run by South West Trains and Connex South Central were said to show 75 breaches of agreed service levels. The Office of Passenger Rail Franchising said the firms had promised to put right any breaches.

#### **Erotic first night**

An erotic French film banned in Britain since the 1970s for its sadomasochistic content is to receive its first screening in this country even though it does not have the approval of British censors. Histoire d'O, about a woman who is sexually abused by masked men, will be shown at the Institut Français in London on April 26 as part of a festival entitled "66 Years of Eroticism in French Cinema." Rumpy-pumpy war, page 19

#### Rock-a-bye layby

Bedfordshire County Council has agreed to build a temporary layby outside the house of Julie Marshall, 31, so that she can give birth at home next month. When major work began in her street at Kempston, officials at Bedford Hospital said they could not go ahead if there was no space for an ambulance and a midwife's car outside her front door. The layby will be removed after the birth.

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# Cheddar men

Continued from page 1 than nuclear DNA. Dr Bryan Sykes, from Oxford, said: "It is extraordinary that the DNA survives at all, but we were able to extract it and sequence it. The Cheddar Caves are an rexcellent place for preservation as the limestone helps keep the minerals in the bone

and the DNA intact. It is not a perfect match. One base pair - that is, one letter of the genetic alphabet is different out of 300. But in 9,000 years we would expect one to change by the normal rates of mutation. So it's a pretty close match."

The odds against finding a match are not enormous. The institute carried out only 20 tests, finding a single close match. But given a larger sample, they would probably have found many more. If much of today's large population is descended from the relatively few hunter-gatherers who lived 9,000 years ago,

few Earth-mothers will now shared by many descendants. Dr Sykes believes it is

the mitochondrial DNA of a

further evidence that the population of Britain is descended from hunter-gatherers and not from a later group of farmers who migrated to the country. His belief, backed by a much larger study of many different European populations, is that the hunter-gatherers learnt farming from the incoming group, but were not physically displaced by them.

A colleague of Dr Sykes, Dr Robert Hedges, said: "Analysing the bones takes months, as the tests must be run many times to see a reliable pattern. By contrast, analysing the DNA samples from cheek swabs can be done in a few hours.†

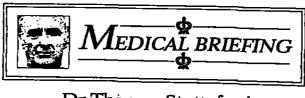
Mr Targett's wife Catherine, 47, said: "Maybe it explains why he likes his steaks

# Doctors must put patients before feelings and submit to HIV tests

SOME 50,000 women who have had gynaecological or obstetric care in four health areas would be less than human if they were not worried by the news that a junior doctor who cared for them was HIV positive. Now 1.700 letters are being sent to those patients whose surgery may have put them at risk from the doctor, whose identity and sex have not been revealed.

Fortunately the risk, so far as is known, is not great. It seems that there have been only two suspected incidents of health workers passing HIV to patients: one concerning a French surgeon and, the other, more doubtfully, a Florida dentist. However, the medical establishment and the politicians who have been only too ready to accept its reassurances have been made on more than one occasion in the past 20 years to look foolish; and their foolishness

has cost lives. Originally, for example, medical experts assured the public that there was no evidence that HIV could be spread other than by semen.



#### Dr Thomas Stuttaford

no evidence that blood could carry the infection, and none that women could catch or transmit it. This statement was answering the wrong

The public had wanted to know whether there was evi-dence that blood and other fluids could transmit the disease. Although there was not. they were falsely reassured. As a result of the doctors intransigence, maintained despite the forebodings and doubts of many colleagues. hundreds of young haemophiliacs were given blood transfusions and died.

Likewise the reassurance by experts that there was no evidence that BSE could be transmitted from one species to another was ridiculed by

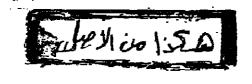
many as meaningless and probably inaccurate, but despite this the experts continwith their bland. reassuring phrases and the politicians continued to believe them until they, and everyone else, had proof that BSE was crossing species barriers.

Hepatitis B. which like HIV is spread by blood. semen and other body Ruids. has been spread by doctors and other health workers and there have been several disastrous outhreaks with considerable loss of life. There are many occasions, possibly the majority, when surgeons find after a long operation that the sweat within their gloves is bloodstained as a result of pricks and tears in the gloves.

which allowed a patient's blood to get into a glove might just as well have caused the his or her blood to escape into \\(\text{0}\) the patient's wound.

Doctors are compulsorily tested for hepatitis B: why is .... there such reluctance to do the same for HIV? It seems that there is a fear that it would produce accusations of sexual and racial prejudice, as HIV is still much more common in British homosexuals than heterosexuals, and in those doctors and nurses who have grown up in Africa and the Far East rather than, for example, in York or Truro.

Nobody wants to offend colleagues, and doctors as a group are particularly free of sexual and racial prejudice. But their first duty must be for their patients' health and lives rather than fellow doctors feelings. The next precaution needed to safeguard the nation's health is to expose the phrase "There is no evidence that this or that can cause trouble" for the feeble reassur-



Dello 150

# Teenagers raped and molested during 20-year reign of terror at schools and homes

# Paedophile social worker jailed for 18 years

A PAEDOPHILE who repeatedly abused children in his care throughout a 20-year career as a teacher and headmaster at special schools and homes was jailed for

18 years yesterday. Keith Laverack, 52, molested and raped teenage boys and girls at three establishments in Cheshire and Cambridgeshire, ensuring their silence with a combination of threats and "sweet talk". Judge Huw Daniel told him: "You took advantage of damaged children to satisfy what can only be described as your perverted lusts when you knew that what they wanted

was love, affection and security." Laverack, who rose to become a senior social services manager, denied the 20

jury found him guilty on 11 counts of buggery and four of indecent assault after almost nine hours of deliberation at Chester Crown Court. He stood with his head bowed in the dock, occasionally closing his eyes as the judge passed sentence. Many of Laverack's victims were in court and they broke into

applause as he was led away. The judge said that Laverack subdued many of his victims by force and violence, leaving them humiliated and oppressed. "They had to live with it for years, locking it away, trying not to think of the appalling things you did to them. You

REPORTS BY BRIAN FARMER AND MARK THOMAS

having to recall what happened to them and suffer what many of them regard as public humiliation. You were merciless to them at the time and you showed no

mercy when you were found out." Judge Daniel went on: "You [assaulted] them at every opportunity that presented itself. You were confident you could get away with it because the system allowed you to get away with it, and you ensured the silence of these children by threats and sweet talk, confident in the knowledge that if these children did complain they would not be believed."

Laverack's career as a paedophile

assaults, all relating to his

time at St Aidan's. Residential

social worker Colin Dick, now

54, pleaded guilty to seven sex

offences and was jailed for

four years. A total of 534 allegations - 353 of them

sexual - were investigated by

the Cheshire team. With fur-

ther child sex allegations still

coming to light, the force is

now to set up a permanent

On Merseyside Operation

Van Gogh arrested Edward

Stanton, a residential care

officer at St Vincent's. He was

jailed for 13 years after facing

Philip Savage. 43, convicted of 15 sex offences while he

worked at Boaler Street As-

sessment Centre in Kensing-

ton, Liverpool and Dyson Hall

Assessment Centre in

Fazakerley, was jailed for 15

Dyson Hall care worker James Desmond Traynor, 40.

from Otterspool, Liverpool,

received a 10-year sentence -

reduced to eight on appeal

for sex assaults on two teen-

aged boys. Mark Trotter, who

worked as a social worker at the New Heys Assessment Centre in Allerton, Liverpool before moving to Hackney to become a residential social worker died in July 1995 of Aids-related pneumonia, days before police were due to On Merseyside, the flood of further information that came from the Van Gogh prosecutions led to the setting up of Operation Care, in which a team of Wirral-hased detectives is even now investigating allegations of abuse at about 17 more homes on Merseyside alone. And even that investi-

27 sex charges.

began as soon as he joined the staff of Greystone Heath, an approved school in Warrington, and continued until 1987, the judge said. "Outwardly you were caring and responsible, but you lived a lie. You used your knowledge of children and high intelligence to abuse and deceive. I cannot remember a case as bad as this. That your urges got the better of you l regard as no excuse at all. You knew what you were but you took no steps to have treatment. You wanted to abuse children and you continued to do so over those 20 years or more."

Laverack was convicted of eight out of

nine charges of buggery at Greystone Heath School; one charge of buggery at Kneesworth House, a children's home near Meldreth, Cambridgeshire; two out of three charges of indecent assault at Kneesworth House; two out of three charges of buggery while head of Mid-field children's home near Cambridge: and two out of three charges of indecent assault at Midfield. He was cleared of indecently assaulting a boy he played against in a golf tournament at Ely. Cambridgeshire.

One of his victims said after the trial: "What the judge said about the gravity of the offences and how wicked they were was pretty much on the ball, and how we

sentence wasn't lenient but you always hope for more hecause a paedophile can't be cured and he could be out in nine or ten years and doing it again somewhere else."

Ted Unsworth, director of social services for Cambridgeshire, said: "I regret that anybody has suffered harm as a result of being in care in Cambridgeshire. These offences were committed many years ago when standards were not so high." He also regretted that Laverack had risen so high within the social services department but said there was no way that anyone could have known the truth. It just shows how clever he was at

# made them go through the ordeal of Investigators found network of child abuse

preyed on hundreds of vulnerable youths in children's homes across two counties were exposed by one of the biggest ever investigations into child sex abuse yet mounted. Eleven have been given lengthy prison sentences, but the full extent of their network can be revealed for the first

time todav. Orders restricting the media from reporting details of sev-eral of the cases for fear of prejudicing later trials were finally lifted by a Chester Crown Court judge today as Laverack was jailed.

C Widown

i service

Police and social workers in Cheshire and Merseyside copoperated to investigate the allegations from former residents of children's homes. They are convinced that similar patterns of widescale abuse by paedophiles who wormed their way into positions of authority at children's homes in the 60s and 70s will emerge from other investigations around the country.

The police inquiry began in Cheshire in August 1993, after complaints were received. about Brian Hudson, a resi- . dential social worker at Danesford Children's Home, run by NCH Action for Children in Congleton. Officers: launched Operation Bugle, which eventually gathered information against 39 former the school's closure in 1991.

Hudson, now 47, was found guilty of four indecent assaults and jailed for four years. Dennis Grain, 64, was jailed for seven years after admitting 19 offences at Danesford, Greystone Heath Approved School in Warrington and Axelhoime House in Doncas-

Grain began his child care work as a residential officer at Ashbourne Lodge, Winchester. He was a housemaster at Danesford in from 1964. He Greystone Heath from 1971 to 1980 when he went to Doncaster as warden at Axelholme House. He was asked to leave

THE INQUIRY

A SOLICITOR representing child abuse victims has called for a public inquiry into the scandal in children's homes in northwest England. Peter Garsden said he would be making an appeal to Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary. "We want to know exactly how this could be allowed to happen on such a scale." Mr Garsden estimates there could be hundreds of claims for compensation from victims of convicted child abusers as a result of the police inquiries in the North West and Cambridgeshire. The solicitor, of Abney Garsden McDonald of Poynton, Cheshire, has already prepared the ground for civil actions in the North West.

in 1982 for inappropriate behaviour, but from 1983 to 1984 he was warden at Eton College, Windsor.

John Clarke, 37, was another residential social worker at Danesford from 1984 to 1989, when he took a similar job at Redhouse Crescent in Longton. Stoke. He was found guilty of one indecent assault and pleaded guilty to three more, and was cal assault by Chester Crown Court last year. He is serving

The common link between the investigations in Cheshire and Merseyside was Alan Langshaw, 44, now serving 10 years after admitting 28 sex assaults when he appeared at Warrington Crown Court on November 25, 1994. Langshaw, of Wirral, became a house-parent at Liverpool City Council-run Greystone Heath in 1970, and returned there in 1976 after a two-year break. In 1980 he moved to St Vincent's Community School

Catholic Social Services in Liverpool and the Hydrocephalus Association before joining Halton College, Widnes in 1989 as a counsellor for sexually abused students. He worked there until his arrest on March 7, 1994.

Langshaw's abuse of the disturbed young people who came under his control went undetected for 20 years, until a chance sighting by one of his former victims.

The man saw Langshaw leading a young boy into a St Helens library, his arm protectively wrapped around his shoulder. He went to the police, determined that no more children should have to face what he had endured.

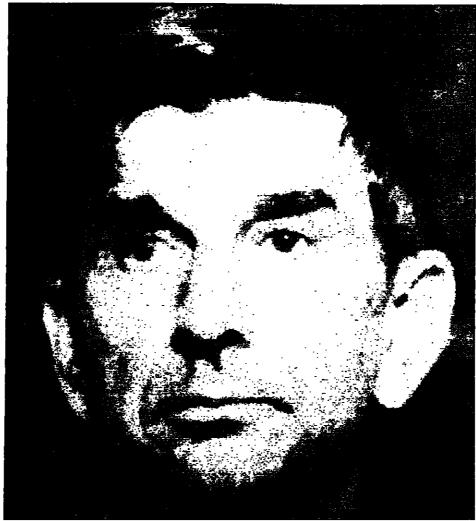
Cheshire police launched Operation Granite in February 1994, concentrating on Greystone Heath, while Merseyside Police set up Operation Van Gogh, initially to investigate Langshaw's activities at St Vincent's.

Operation Granite led to allegations against a total of 33 former Greystone Heath staff who worked there from 1965 until it closed in 1985. Four of the 33, including Langshaw, Laverack, and Grain have been prosecuted and sentenced, while three died before police got involved. Shuttleworth, 64, of

Leigh, Greater Manchester, offences at Greystone Heath and Warnerville Children's Home in Liverpool by Chester Crown Court on May 30 last year and jailed for 10 years. Another major element of

the Cheshire inquiry was Op-eration Emily, which centred Aidan's Approved School, Widnes, run by the Nugent Care Society. This operation began with a comlaint against headmaster Terence Hoskin in December,

Allegations about 25 staff were received, covering the years 1970 to 1981, when it closed. Hoskin, 59, of Doncasin Formby, Merseyside as ter, was jailed for eight years deputy head, and was promoted to headmaster but suspendfor nine sex offences and 13



Laverack was said to have impressed boys with his elegance and distinction

# Captain Hook figure had Lost Boys in thrall

THE PAEDOPHILE

KEITH LAVERACK had risen to a position of great responsibility within Cambridgeshire's social services department before police discovered that he had abused children in his care for the best part of 30 years. He had become manager of the council's guardian ad litem panel by the time he was arrested in February last year.

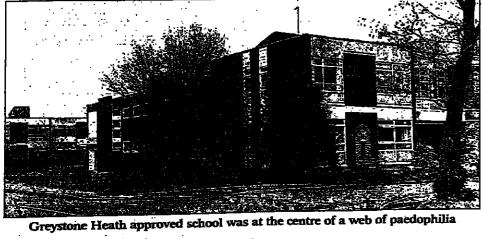
Guardians ad litem are independent people appointed by a court to act for children taken into care by social workers and to prepare reports on their futures. Laverack's responsibilities included recruitment and he would almost certainly have had access to the personal details of many children in care.

He began his career as a science teacher at the Greystone Heath approved school in Warrington, Cheshire. He moved to Cambridgeshire in 1970, worked in two children's homes and the planning and procedure department of the county's social services before.

in 1992, being appointed manager of the guardian ad litem panel. He was well known and well connected.

In court, Alex Carlile, QC, for the prosecution, depicted Laverack as a tall, dashing figure who were smart clothes, drove sports cars and played golf. Laverack impressed boys with his elegance and distinction, and Mr Carlile compared him to Captain Hook in Peter Pan. The boys for whom Mr Laverack had responsibility were very much the Lost Boys. Some of them had been rejected by their mothers and fathers. Not a few had been sexually abused at home by their fathers, by their stepfathers, by the uncles and friends."

Mr Carlile read a description of Captain Hook from Peter Pan: "He is never more sinister that when he is at his most polite, and the elegance of his diction, the distinction of his demeanour, show him as one of a difference class from



gation, large as it is, is just the tip of the iceberg. 'I don't think I can ever come to

terms with what he did to me'

ONE of Keith Laverack's victims spoke yesterday of how, nearly 25 years after the abuse ended, he remained psychologically scarred. The man, now 39 and married, with a daughter, was abused by Laverack between the ages of 14 and 16, while in a children's home. The victim, who gave evi-

dence against Laverack at Chester Crown Court, said he would never recover from the damage he had done. "I don't think I can ever come to terms with it. It doesn't go away -

you suppress it." He added: "Some people may say by coming here to give evidence you may lay the ghost to rest. But it doesn't. What you are looking for is justice; for someone to pay for the crimes they have perpe-

trated on others." The man, who cannot be identified for legal reasons. said that Laverack's abuse had left him wary of men. "I am still uncomfortable to this day in male company." he explained. "I will not sit next to another man on a couch. I will not stand next to another man

in a toilet." He added: "I don't have male friends. Female friends, yes. But I don't trust

anybody." The man recalled his confusion and fear during the time he was being abused. He said there was no one he could tell, although he felt guilty for not having spoken out.

You know it's wrong but where do you go? You want to tell somebody. The voice cries out to do something. But who do you tell? ... I deeply regret that I didn't tell somebody when I was 14 or 16. Maybe it would have saved the boys

who came after me." He said that he had never disclosed the full extent of his suffering at the hands of Laverack - not even to his wife. And he said he was left with a feeling of worthlessness.

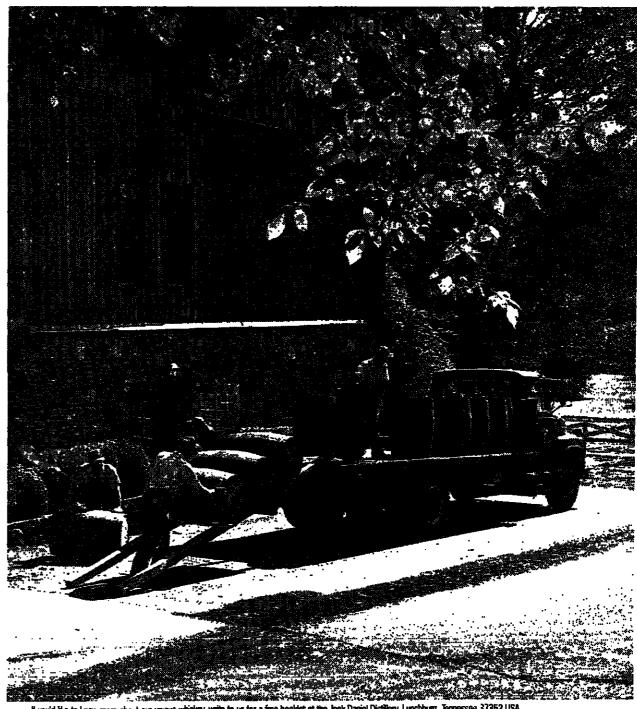
"If it were not for my family. my wife, my daughter, I would question what the point was and just call it a day," he added. "If I was on my own I would say, probably with a smile on my face: thank you you can keep life."

The man said he had left the home where Laverack worked at 16 and "disappeared abroad". He had then drifted coming a self-taught computer programmer. He had never caught up educationally. He said that he still feared

for children in care, believing that there were not sufficient checks to protect them from sexual abuse. "There are kids who are currently now in care who are being systematically abused," he said. "They are still going to be out there. Nothing is going to change." He called for potential re-

cruits to children's homes to be screened much more critically and thoroughly. Outside teams should visit homes unannounced and regularly to talk to children individually and gain their trust.

He did not want to talk about Laverack, but he said he hoped his former teacher



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# Lord of Manor right to charge for access

By Ian Murray, community correspondent

RESIDENTS of homes built on an ancient common must pay the Lord of the Manor whatever he asks to drive across his land to reach their front doors, the High Court decided vesterday

The ruling means up to 150 families living on Bucklebury Common, near Newbury in Berkshire, will have to pay Robin Hartley Russell, 36, whose family has owned 820 acres of the land for at least 450 years. Although the house-holders own their properties, they will be breaking the law if they do not buy the right to cross the common to reach them. Mr Hartley Russell has charged between £5,000 and £50,000 to the 50 or so families who have already agreed to pay him for access rights.



Newbury council took Mr

Hartley Russell: land in family for 450 years

Hartley Russell to court, saying its powers as managers of the common meant it could give residents permission to drive across the thin strip of land to their homes.

David Mole QC, for the council, argued that a man-1929 between the Hartley Russell family and the local authority of the day under the Commons Act meant that the council was responsible for granting or restricting vehicu-

The judge agreed the council had the right to prosecute if common, but said this did not mean the authority could grant access He said the scheme signed by the council does not have

the effect of removing all the landowner's rights to object to trespass on his land, which had been in the Hartley Russell family as Lords of Bucklebury Manor since 1540. He could not see how the family did not retain the fundamental" right to object to "trespassers" with cars on the land and to charge householders for using it.

The judge said this had always been a valuable right which had earned "substantial sums". Dismissing the council's case, he criticised the authority for using local tax-payers' money to fight an action which was not for the benefit of the community but to help "a few individual householders on the com-

Residents must pay to use the narrow strip of land between the gatepost, above, and the road. Mr Hartley Russell lives in Bucklebury Manor mon". The council was employs an estate office and a ordered to pay costs, which full time forester and estate are expected to total £10,000. manager and he said that if he Mr Hartley Russell said after had lost the case, he might the ruling that 50 to 60 home well have had to make some owners had already paid for staff redundant. "I am just

Malcolm Pointer, his soliciment of the common. All the tor, said: "Common land is trees growing there are his not public land, it is private land over which the public have leisure rights."

delighted this matter has been

settled and my rights as owner of this property have ben upheld by the court," he said.

I'm sorry it has fallen on local

council tax-payers to pick up



#### Neighbour denies **VE-Day** Nazi taunt

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A MAN who denied taunting his German neighbour by calling him a Nazi, waving a Union flag and singing Land of Hope and Glory on VE-Day claimed yesterday that his own great-grandfather was

Magistrates in Leeds heard that that there had been verbal warfare between Frederick Thorpe, an unemployed painter and decorator, and Siegfried Neumann who lived next door on a council estate in the

Leeds district of Bramley, David, Taylor, prosecuting Mr Thorpe on charges of provocation to violenc, and harassment, said the Englishman had called Mr Neumann "Nazi", "Hun" and "Kraut", Mr Thorpe counter-claimed that Mr Neumann had called

him an "English pig". Mr Thorpe denied parading in his garden with the flag or singing. "I was in the pub until 9pm on VE-Day," he said. He claimed Mr Neumann, 52, had suggested he fry his children at a barbecue he threw in August 1995. The trial was adjourned until March 17.

#### CORRECTION

The chairman of Enfield Southgate Conservative Association is Lionel Zetter, not John Boast (report, March 1). Mr Boast was expressing a

**WORCESTER** Odeon

YEOVIL ABC

# It's only rock and roll but politicians like it

BY ALAN HAMILTON

NEVER mind what they say, listen to what they listen to. Would you vote for a politi-cian who confessed to a liking for Meat Loaf — the singer, not the dish — or another who admitted once being into

Dexy's Midnight Runners?
Three parliamentarians with a youth connection bare their soul - not to mention their rhythym and blues and Britpop — in the 1015 section record I play most is Walk Onof The Times today. The secret Meat Loaf addict is revealed as the outrageously youthful William Hague, Secretray of State for Wales and Tory spokesman on youth issues. At 35. Mr Hague appears to harbour the ambition to be the youngest Prime Minister

Asked what bands he likes. Mr Hague admits to a Meat Loaf addiction of some years'

player." Extremist politicians always risk losing the middleof-the-road vote, so Mr Hague quickly adds that the last live concert he attended was given by that rather classier act, Diana Ross.

Passion runs higher in the breast of Mo Mowlam, Shadow Northern Ireland Secre-tary and chair of the Labour NEC youth committee. The The Wild Side by Lou Reed. 1 put it on when I'm feeling fed up and it makes me feel a lot better." But she astutely keeps a foot in more than one musical decade, having recently been to concerts by the mildly dated Pink Floyd and the exceedingly current Oasis.

The Liberal Democrat Matthew Taylor, at 24 the younthat a politician or pop star has a different lifestyle from everyone else.

the right to cross the common

land and he would now con-

sider what further steps to

take to enforce his ancestral

He said a large proportion

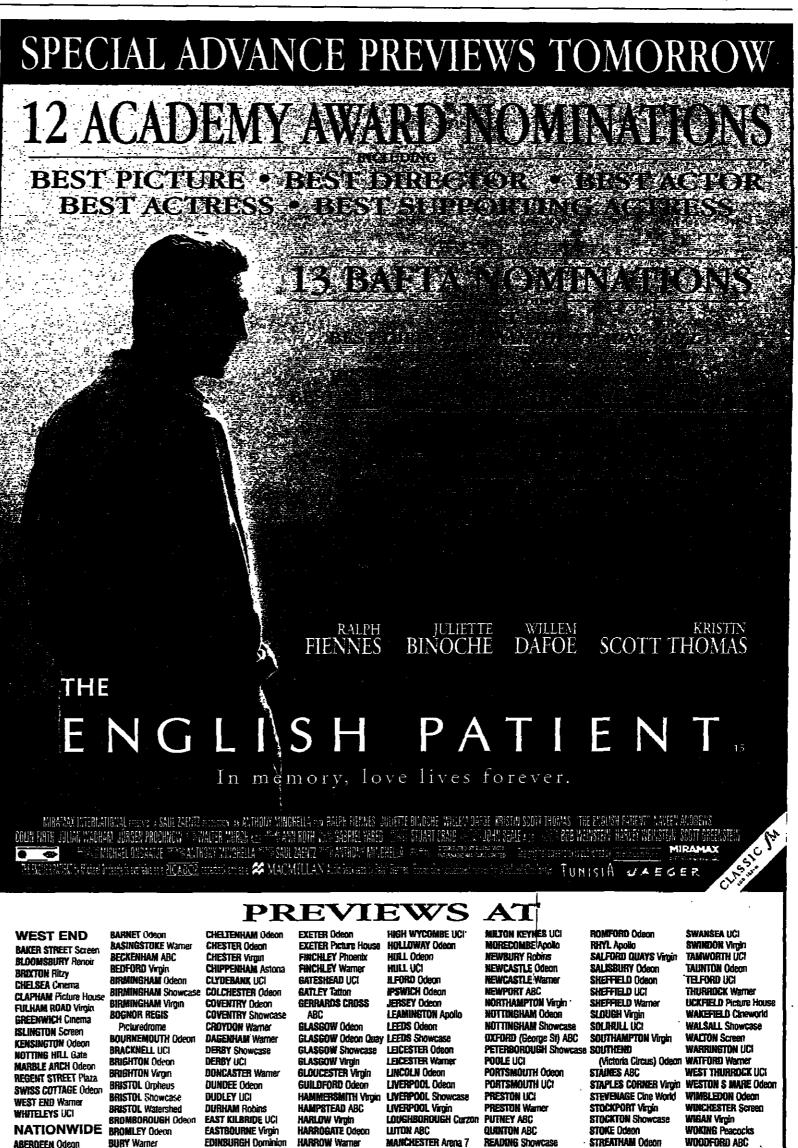
rights on the other residents.

ploughed back into improve

He plays Jamiroquai in the car, admits to liking Oasis even though it is uncool to say so, and used to be into the Clash, the Specials, Madness and Dexy's Midnight Runners. His concert going tends to the Celtic fringe, having recently included Sinead O'Connor and Van Morrison. Mr Taylor, despite his

youth, is astute enough to have nothing to with bands tarred with the Tory brush. "The Spice Girls are popular but I try to avoid them. If they are doing it to get in the newspapers, then it's uninteresting. A lot of bands have put politics into their music. I'm not sure you can say that

## st MP in the current about the Spice Girls. " Avoiding the Spice Girls is becom-Parliament, plays the Lib standing. "When I'm at home Dem game of appealing to all ing daily more difficult. at the weekends I often stick manner of obscure interest 1015, page 8 Bat Out Of Hell on the CD groups, although he does say WHEN YOU ENTER THIS FIELD YOU NEED TO BE WITH AN EXPERT For fail-safe advice on buying a personal computer, look no further than Personal Computer World. No other magazine offers such a wealth of reviews and top quality editorial. And each issue has a further 620 pages, including Direct Buyers' World, offering any conceivable PC product you could wish to buy So before you decide on your next PC. decide on PCW first. EXPERIENCE SETS US A WORLD APART



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REIGATE Screen

SUTTON LICE

SUTTON COLDERALD

#### **Machete** case nurse 'deserves honour'

By Paul WILKINSON

A JUDGE called yesterday for public recognition for Lisa Potts, the nursery nurse who risked her life to save children being attacked by a man wielding a machete.

Mr Justice Sedley, sitting at Teesside Crown Court, praised Miss Potts's courage and said: "It is now many months since the incident and it seems surprising that Miss Ports has not yet been sufficiently recognised for her bravery

Miss Potts, 21, suffered a number of wounds as she tried to shield the children of St Luke's nursery in Blakenhall. Wolverhampton, during the unprovoked attack last July.

Horrett Campbell, 33, a schizophrenic, was convicted in December by Stafford Crown Court of attempted murder. Yesterday the judge committed him to psychiatric hospital while adjourning sentence for reports.

Miss Potts said: "I expected that he would go to a hospital.



# Lord Chancellor raised court fees unlawfully

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor acted unlawfully when he imposed hefty court fees and denied poor people their ancient common law right of access to the courts, two judges ruled

yesterday.
The High Court judges,
Lord Justice Rose with Mr Justice Laws, ruled that Lord Mackay of Clashfern acted unlawfully by bringing in new fees with no reduction for fi-nancial hardship. The removal of powers to remit or waive fees was invalid.

An order bringing in higher fees and scrapping the exemptions was introduced in January by Lord Mackay and approved by the four senior judges and the Treasury. The effect of the order, Mr Justice Laws said, was "to bar absolutely many persons from seeking justice from the court\* and there was no parliamenta-

ry authority for that. Yesterday's ruling means that people on low incomes will again be able to apply for reductions in court fees and those who have paid the fees since January may be able to

show hardship. The judges re-fused permission for the Lord Chancellor's lawyers to appeal. Mr Justice Laws said: The

right to a fair trial, which of necessity imports the right of access to the court, is as near to an absolute right as any which I can envisage. "Access to the courts is a

constitutional right: it can only be denied by the Government if it persuades Parliament to pass legislation which specifically permits the executive to turn away people from the court door. That has not been done in this case." Lord Justice Rose added

to prescribe fees so as totally to preclude the poor from access to the courts" The Lord Chancellor's Department said that it was considering the implications of the decision and whether they would apply directly for

there was nothing to suggest Parliament ever intended a

power for the Lord Chancellor

Appeal. An Essex businessman. John Witham, who is on in-

leave to appeal to the Court of

Mackay: judges ruled he denied access to courts

the test challenge to the fees regime introduced under the Supreme Court Fees Order 1996 which scrapped the exemptions for those on income support. He wanted to sue an insurance firm for libel, but could not afford the new High Court writ fee of £500 which was raised from £120. Legal aid is not available in libel cases. Mr Witham did obtain legal aid for yesterday's

Mr Witham said after- stored in the county courts.

wards: Thank God we are in this country and subject to a hearing in this country. I will now go ahead with my libel

Geoffrey Bindman, of Bindman & Partners, the solicitors who acted for Mr Witham, said: The judges are saying that fundamental rights trump Parliament. They are saying that when the Govern-ment, through delegated legis-lation, tries to take away basic rights, they will intervene to

Stephen Grosz, Mr With-am's lawyer, added that in refusing leave to appeal, the judges "have sent out a clear message that the Government should not pursue this

through the courts." The new fees were introduced to cover the entire £310 million annual cost of the civil justice system rather than the four-fifths of the expenditure met last year.

Although yesterday's ruling only applies to the part of order dealing with fees exemptions and reductions in the High Court, the Government will now face pressure to ensure the provisions are re-

recalled

WE VIEW

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# Bingham pleads for simplified. sentencing rules

By Russell Jenkins

THE Lord Chief Justice yesterday called on politicians to draw into one convenient statute the confusing strands of sentencing powers available to

Lord Bingham of Cornhill expressed his sympathy with judges facing "extreme difficulty" keeping up with constantly changing maximum sentences as he heard an appeal in a case where a judge had handed down an unlawfully heavy term of imprison-

He told Arthur Street, 73, convicted at Chester Crown Court in September of indecent assault against a boy and two girls, that, partly because of the judge's error, he would serve three years in jail in-

Lord Bingham was at Liverpool Crown Court for the first sitting of the Court of Appeal's Criminal Division outside London for almost 20 years. He wants to deliver justice as close as possible to its regional source. The appeal court may hold regular regional sittings, with Lord Bingham doing the travelling rather than the barristers, solicitors and families of appellants.

The concrete Queen Elizabeth II building which casts its shadow over Liverpool docks has none of the majesty of the Court of Appeal's 19th-century home in the Strand, central London. In one morning session. Lord Bingham heard seven appeals arising from criminal cases in Greater

Manchester. They involved a professional burglar "with an appalling record", a man who went on the run rather than face trial, a young man who threatened to kill a police officer, a crack cocaine smuggler, a drug dealer and a heroin addict turned burglar. Four left the dock with sentences significantly

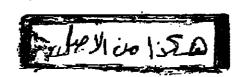
In all but one case, Lord Bingham, sitting alongside Mr Justice Ognall and Mr Justice Thayne Forbes, was able to dispense justice after a short huddle on the bench. They retired only once to consider the technicalities of the indecent assault case.

When they returned, Lord Bingham told the court that he understood the extreme difficulties facing judges in trying to keep up with complexities of modern statute law. "We would greatly welcome consolidation of sentencing powers in one convenient statute," Lord Bingham said.



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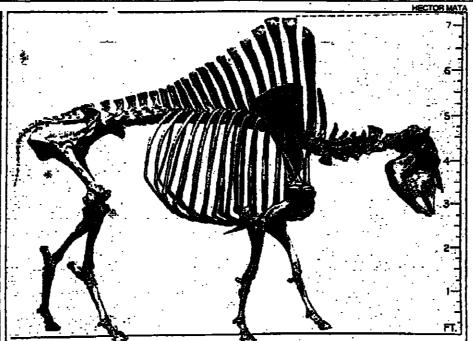
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Bruce Lander holds the bone of a bison that roamed the area up to 10,000 years ago. The skeleton shows they grew to seven feet high

# Jurassic past showing on Hollywood Boulevard

IN HOLLYWOOD, prehistoric usually means before the "talkies". But under the gaze of a billboard Jurassie Park dinosaur, scientists are turning up denizens of the past eight million years as they sift through construction site rubble.

In an area of Los Angeles dotted with trendy cafes and restaurants, they are finding the fossilised re-mains of tusked mastodons, borses,

camels and bison which roamed there until the end of the Ice Age 10,000 years ago.

The remains are now surfacing as Bruce Lander, a palaeontologist, and Robin Turner, an archaeologist, work in an 85ft deep trench that has been excavated for a new subway in Hollywood Boulevard. It is close to the Universal Studios' theme park Cranes and earth movers have hauled out tons of rock, revealing ssils from pollen to mammoth bones and lantern fish.

Until a million years ago, Los Angeles was under water. Then it evolved into a desert before adopting a cooler, wet climate, "Sometimes I catch myself saving. Oh my God. I'm the first person to hold this because this came from a time before there were even people," Ms Turner said. Although they have already accumulated much material, she recalled watching belplessly as a 7ft tuna fossil disappeared up a conveyer belt and was crushed.

More happily, she recalled finding fossilised dolphin excrement con-taining complete fossils of the fish the dolphin had digested. "I was so excited I squealed," she said,

# **Bronze Age cities** may have been destroyed by comet

A SERIES of natural disasters which befell Bronze Age civilisations in many parts of the world may have been the result of comets or meteorites smashing into the Earth from outer space.

New evidence, to be discussed at a conference in Cambridge in July, is likely to give that idea greater academic respectability. The conference, organised by Dr Benny Peiser, a historian from Liverpool Moores University, will discuss whether extraterrestrial impacts can explain the destruction of cities and changes of climate that eliminated ag-

riculture from large regions.
The most exciting new evidence comes from Dr Marie-Agnes Courty, a French expert in the microscopic study of soils and sediments. She is expected to report that samoles from three regions of the Middle East, taken from levels corresponding to the period around 2,200 BC when there were abrupt climatic changes.

contain tiny spheres of a Schaeffer and published alcalcite material unknown on Earth but found in meteorites. She has also found evidence

of huge fires in a layer of burnt soil. The amount of black carbon in the layer is unlikely to come from local grassland fires, she says. It is more likely to come from enormous forest fires in other regions. Volcanic activity cannot explain the

evidence, she says.

Dr Peiser says there is an abundance of evidence of violent change in many Bronze Age cultures at the same time. More than one event seems to have occurred, but at around 2,200 BC civilisations Mesopotamia, the Indus Val-

ley in India, and Egypt all appear to have collapsed. Much later, at the end of the Bronze Age, around 1,200 BC, the Chang dynasty in China and the Mycenaean civilisation in Greece disappeared at the same time. The original evidence was gathered by the French archaeologist Claude

most half a century ago.

He found that Bronze Age sites over a huge area of the near and Middle East showed evidence of four destructive episodes, the three most prominent being at 2,300 BC, 1,050 BC, and 1,200 BC. He concluded that the destruction of cities at more than 40 sites at the same times could only have been caused by massive earthouakes.

But earthquakes, even the biggest, have only local effects. Schaeffer's explanation is no longer accepted. The alternative, which the Cambridge conference will consider, is that during the Bronze Age the Earth was hit not once but several times by debris from space, most likely from a comet broken into pieces.

"We know that such impacts have happened in the distant past," Dr Peiser says. "The question is whether it could also have happened within human experience."

## Loaves are recalled over wire danger

By DAREH GREGORIAN

A BAKERY that supplies leading supermarkets is recalling up to a million loaves after some of the bread was found to be contaminated by pieces of wire.

Harvestime Bakeries of Leicester says that the products at risk are 800g white sliced loaves sold by Tesco, Sainsbury, Safeway, Kwik Save and Choice, and the Harvestime 800g white sliced

lan Toal, the company's sales and marketing head, said that customers had bought loaves containing pieces up to a centimetre long. No one was hurt. The metal is clearly visible against the background of white bread.

"A week's output — about one million loaves — is involved, but we estimate only one in 20,000 could be affected. The product is no longer on sale, but we are concerned that customers could have stored loaves in the freezer."

The loaves would have been bought early this week, primarily in the Midlands. They have "best before" dates of February 27 and 28, and March 1, 2, 3 and 4, and the identification code HF.

Harvestime can be telephoned on 0116 246 0800.

## Pop stars boarded by Bulgarian **CD** pirates

By Robin Young

THE Spice Cirls, Blur, Oasis and Take That have something other than pop music in common with Elton John and the Beatles: they are all victims of Bulgarian pirates.

Despite promises made at the beginning of December. when Bulgaria was accepted into the World Trade Organisation, five factories are continuing to flood international markets with counterfeit CDs.

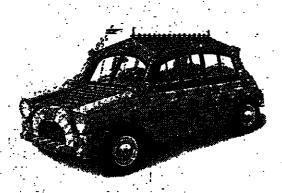
Frances Moore, director of European affairs for the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry, said yesterday: The Bulgarians are completely undermining the industry. They are blatantly breaking their promises, robbing pop stars and composers of their royalties and record companies of their sales. They simply must be stopped, or the record industry will not have any future."

Ms Moore said of the five factories known still to be producing pirate CDs in Bulgaria: "We estimate conservatively that they are producing at least 15 million records a

The federation is demanding that Bulgaria be expelled from the World Trade Organisation unless it keeps the promises it made to get in.

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As an American Secretary of State once said, power is the ultimate aphrodisiac. And we all know Americans love power. Which may be one of the reasons they also love the Chrysler Neon LX.

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Of course the Neon isn't all muscle. If there's one thing Americans like as much as power, it's luxury.

conditioning, twin airbags, ABS brakes, power steering, an immobiliser, remote

The Neon LX comes with air-

control central locking, a three year warranty, roadside assistance and, believe it or not, automatic transmission is available at no extra cost. And the price of this all-American car? Just £13,550 all-in.

A pretty powerful reason to visit your nearest Chrysler dealer and take a Neon for a test drive. Enjoy.

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# Countryside groups join forces against threat of Labour win

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

THREE countryside pressure groups are to merge in an new organisation to fight Labour moves that may outlaw hunting and limit the rights of landowners.

The British Field Sports Society (BFSS) will amalgamate with the Countryside Movement (CM) and the Countryside Business Group (CBG). It is hoped the move will be agreed by the end of the month.

The Labour Party is committed to provide parliamentary time for a Private Member's Bill to ban fox and stag hunting and would also introduce a public right to roam" over all uncultivated private land if elected.

The merger appears to be a takeover by the BFSS, founded in 1930, of the two newer groups, which were launched with much fanfare in 1995 but have failed to attract either the money or attention for which they hoped. The chairman of

the BFSS, Charles Goodson-Wickes, Tory MP for Wimbledon, and its chief executive. Robin Hanbury-Tenison, will hold the same positions in the new organisation, which will be at BFSS headquarters in London. The BFSS will also supply ten of 20 board

There is still no agreement on what the new body should be called. Countryside Campaign and British Countryside have been suggested, but a strong faction at the BFSS wants to retain the society's name and simply create a new countryside committee.

Sir David Steel, the executive chairman of the CM, who is to be a deputy chairman of the new organisation, said: "It is certainly true that the CM did not attract the substantial funds I had expected. There have been too many of us running round trying to get money from the same people."

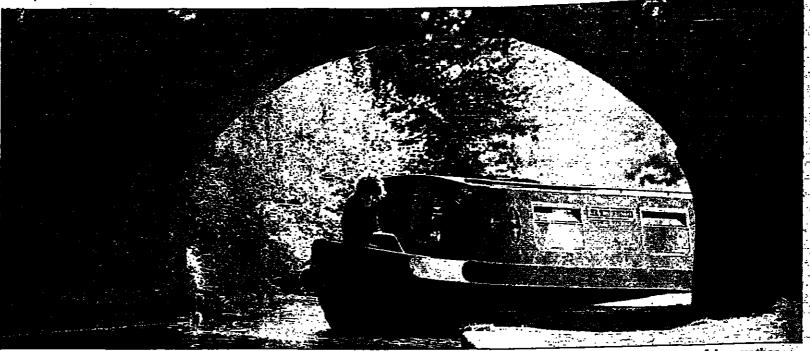
Much of the funding for the CM was supposed to have

come from the CBG, which has so far raised less than £700,000 of the planned £5 million a year from busi-nesses such as saddlers. gunmakers and fishing tackle

companies.

Already there are signs, however, that the merger will sharpen as many divisions as it heals. Ken Ball, president of the National Federation of Anglers, who is on the board of the CM. said: "I will not be joining the new organisation. Our members are not in favour of a closer tie-up with BFSS, which would drag them into the hunting debate.

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), which refused a merger with the BFSS last year, will also be staying outside the new body. The National Farmers' Union. which is studiously neutral on hunting, is also distancing itself from the new body.



Boat owners say that investment is needed to preserve their pastime and the businesses that depend on it after three years of dry weather

# Bottom drops out of canal market as drought bites

BY NICK NUTTALL

BOAT OWNERS are demanding urgent action to counter the impact of three years of dry weather on canals and rivers and the consequent threat to livelihoods and hobbies. The low level of waterways is

causing craft to ground and propellers and hulls to be damaged, it was claim-Leading article, page 21 ed yesterday. The problem is aggravat-

ed by water being abstracted for domestic and agricultural use from rivers that feed canals. On the Severn, pleasure craft are hitting debris on the river-bed, the National Association of Boat Owners said.

Water shortages have led to lock restrictions on many canals, as British Waterways, which manages most of the network, has attempted to conserve resources. Restrictions on the use of

locks are to be introduced this month on stretches of the Grand Union and

South Oxford canals.

Peter Lea, head of the association. said yesterday that there was a threat not only to the pastime of boating but to repair yards, public houses and oth-er businesses that depended on leisure craft. He added that canals and navigable rivers were a haven for wildlife and enjoyed by birdwatchers, anglers.

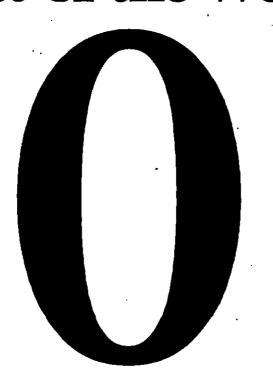
walkers and riders. The boat owners' association, which has 2,000 members, held talks with senior executives at British Waterways earlier this week.

Mr Lea said that they wanted investment in the network. Funds were need. ed for pumping gear to prevent water running from canals into the rivers and the sea and to build new reservoirs or clean out silt and mud from existing ones to increase their capacity.

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Woodward: told mother

#### Au pair gave dying baby 'kiss of life'

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN BOSTON

LOUISE WOODWARD, the British au pair accused of murdering a nine-month-old American baby, tried to give the child the kiss of life after he became ill, according to her mother.

Susan Woodward said yesterday that her daughter had told her what went on during the evening last month she is alleged to have shaken the baby, who later died in hospital from a head injury. "I asked her to just look me in the eyes and tell me what happened that day," Mrs Woodward said on a Boston radio station. "She gave him the kiss of life. She knows that she did everything she could for him.

Miss Woodward, 19, of Elton, Cheshire, was formally charged with the first degree murder of Matthew Eappen. when she appeared in a Boston court yesterday. A post-mortem examination found that Matthew had suffered multiple injuries.

Miss Woodward, who arrived at the courthouse from a woman's prison faces a sen-tence of life imprisonment if found guilty. Her mother said of her daughter: "She is looking forward to the case unfolding so that people will realise that she is completely innocent of anything, and that she had nothing to do with what happened to Mat-

The baby's parents are both medical professionals from Newton, Massachusetts.

#### NEWS IN BRIEF **Burst of** buyers for

bubble cars The biggest private collection of bubble cars — assembled over two decades by Bruce Weiner, a Canadian bubble gum magnate — has fetched £447,400 at auction. Christie's sold an example of the world's

smallest production car, the 1964 Peel Trident, styled "the

cosiest courting car in the world", for £28,750. The top price, of £29,900, was paid for a 1960 Tg 500 Tiger Cabriolet. Train delays

Rail passengers heading for the West Country can expect lengthy delays after the main line to Devon and Cornwall was blocked by a derailment. Great Western Trains said westbound InterCity services would terminate at Exeter and eastbound trains at Plymouth.

#### Carrier mission

An official expedition to try to solve the mystery of the carrier *Derbyshir*e, which sank in a typhoon off Japan in 1980 with the loss of all 44 crew, begins today. Trade unions and shipping experts have argued that structural defects, not the weather, caused the disaster.

#### **Butlins fined**

Butlins has been fined £25,000 after a monorail accident at its Somerwest World holiday camp in Minehead last August. The firm pleaded guilty at West Somerset Magistrates' Court to failing to ensure the safety of employees and pas-

#### In the mire

A commuter who had been celebrating promotion spent the night in a marsh after falling asleep then leaving his train six stops too soon. The cold, dazed and mud-covered man, in his 30s, was found at dawn by John Myatt, a farmer at High Halstow, Kent,

#### Beggars belief

Gurkha recruit based at Crookham, Hampshire, sent into Guildford to improve his English by chaning to shoppers, remarked in an essay that the people were so well off that "even the beggars wear pearls". He had been stopped by a flag-day collector.

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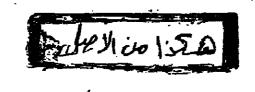
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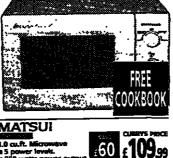
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THE TIMES SATURDAY MARCH 8 1997

Maria da Araba (1922)

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YEWS IN BRIE Burst of Juvers for subble cap

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Rendins food

In the part

# Living life to the full should be for the greater good

vital importance, of an inner

knowledge and truth. To be

flexible and to adapt one's ideas is

necessary — as St Gregory's life

reminds us — in a society that is pluralistic. Otherwise conflicts

arise and evil will triumph in the

chaos. Yet there still must be the

ground-rock of absolutes. For St

Gregory, that meant Christ and His teachings. Cardinal Basil Hume, the Arch-

bishop of Westminster, has given a picture of the human task by

saying that a person should be in

Dom Antony Sutch

#### Credo

been able to achieve a lifestyle that rings so true, and so captures the ingredients of human fulfilment, that it speaks to generation after generation. One such man was Pope St Gregory The Great, who was born in about 540. It is because of his way of life that he was chosen as patron of the monastery and school at Downside, where we follow the ancient tradition of celebrating his Feast on March 12, though the rest of the Catholic Church now keeps

it in September.

'n his early thirties, Gregory head high office as Urban Prefect in Rome, but found it difficult to balance the demands of secular work. he interests of his office, and the contemplative ideal. He retired to a monastic community. However, his talents were such that he was called from there into high office once more — this time in the Church. Wisely, when he left his monastery, he took with him some brethren, "so that moved by their example I might be held, as by the chain of an anchor, to the firm land of prayer, while buffeted with ceaseless

waves of worldly business". He undertook his duties reluctantly but fully. He had a grasp of detail, a keen eye for efficiency, and a profound concern for justice and welfare. He intervened personally to check unjust extortion, and refused to let the Church reap the profits of oppression. He dealt personally with all complaints. He was the first Pope to use the title "Servant of the Servants of God". This surely should describe the human destiny of us all.

Pope St Gregory The Great lived life to the full. He pursued his duties and his responsibilities, recognising that any talent he had was a gift that must be put to use for others. His own preference was subordinated to the greater good. Although living by an absolute creed and by the highest moral standards, and always conscious of ultimate truth, he nevertheless took the world for what it was, and attempted to make it always more wholesome and goodly.

The human person is one. It is impossible to separate the spiritual from the physical. What a person is must include what a



Father Antony Sutch at Downside Roman Catholic School, whose patron is Pope St Gregory The Great

person does. The fullness of a person must be formed by thought and meditation, and be characterised by a constant search for what is the truth. From this flow the actions of any person's life. A man's or woman's actions are not to be hidebound by theory, but must accord with a growing knowledge of what is right and what is good.

Too many today live superficially. Too many act from prejudice rather than principle. Too many fail to realise the importance, the

the market place, but not necessarily of it. In this way the integrity of the individual is maintained, yet there is tolerance for another. There should always he openness, both of the inner self. I the outer self. The spirituality of the human being is formed, yet constantly renewing. So with the human race as a whole it searches for the truth.

Ultimately, if the spirituality of

Ultimately, if the spirituality of a people is right, it will lead to the knowledge of the Creator of that people. I believe, argue and offer the Christian message, but not to the point of denying the integrity and rights of another. How much better if we search for the truth together with a pure heart and a pure mind, and encourage each other. In this way all of us will become servants of the servants of God.

The words of St Francis of Assisi, "It is in giving that we receive", are another way to sum up that title of St Greg ... He saw the fullness of humankind in prayer and action. So his Benedictine life speaks to us, through the centuries, echoing the words "to work is to pray" and, we must never forget, "to pray is to work".

Dom Antony Sutch is the Head Master of Downside School

> At Your Service, Weekend, page 11



Pope St Gregory The Great: inspirational lifestyle

SENDAY IS MOTHER'S DAY.

Sex is new religion of the West, vicar says

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

SEX has taken over from religion as the new spirituality of society, according to an Anglican parish priest. The Rev Charles Pickstone writes in a book published this week: "The world of sex today is an outlet for natural instincts, a displacement of religious energies. Sex has become a path to an encounter with a primordial mystery."

al mystery."
In For Fear of the Angels,
Mr Pickstone, vicar of St
Laurence's in Catford, southeast London, says: "In the
past, to escape from suffering,
people worshipped God; but
today sex is the drug most
frequently used to give relief
from the stress of living in a
rapidly changing society."
Sex, like religion, can transport the individual to a world
of ecstasy and heightened
experience. "Sex is the new
spirituality."

Mr Pickstone, art critic for the current affairs review. The Month, says so many people are writing, talking and fantasising about sex because it has taken on many of the functions once performed by religion. "Sex has become the religion of the Western world, the bearer of most people's hopes of encountering something truly 'other'."

Church exiles X-Files adverts

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE Church of England has dropped plans for an Easter advertising campaign based on the television science fiction series *The X-Files*, after copyright problems.

copyright problems.

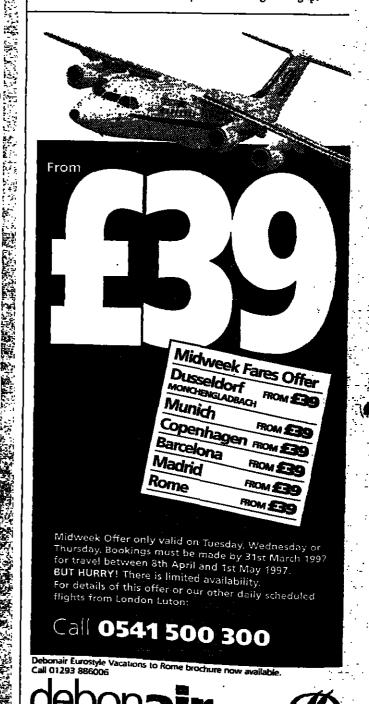
The Church had been planning a high-street billboard campaign featuring the show's catchphrase. "the truth is out there", as well as its distinctive X symbol. Posters would have been displayed outside churches, focusing on the Christian Cross with the message. "The Truth is Here".

message, "The Truth is Here". However, the Churches' Advertising Network, which produced the Bad Hair Day posters last Christmas, was forced to cancel the proposed campaign after being unable to reach an agreement with Twentieth Century Fox, the programme's distributors.

Images associated with the series had been planned. The Rev Richard Thomas, for the network, said: "We had thought it was a strong but traditional campaign focusing on the Cross. We would have spoken to people in a language they understood. We know there is a huge communications gap between the Church's culture and that of people in secular society. We have to bridge that gap."



MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM-8PM • FRIDAY 8AM-9PM • SATURDAY 8AM-8PM • SUNDAY 10AM-4PM.



February Co 1550

And the state of t

MARCH THE TIMES SATURDAY MARCH 8 1997

I lost my husband on that day; I also lost my son. These people will be responsible for other deaths

# Schizophrenic who killed was let down by system

A SCHIZOPHRENIC who killed his stepfather and stabbed his mother was failed by the professionals who should have helped him, one of the most damning reports on mental health care said

Mary Collins, 49, who survived five knife wounds inflicted by her son, Martin Mursell, was led away in tears after hearing that despite a series of blunders, no one had been sacked or disciplined by the local autho ... ty involved. The chairworn-an of Camden and Islington Health Authority in north London later said she would consider her

Social workers, housing officers and doctors all let Mursell down, the report said. His mother had pleaded for help but her son was released from hospital against his will before carrying out the attack at the family home in Islington in October 1994. Joseph Collins. Mursell's disabled stepfather, died after he was stabbed 18 times.



Denman: apologised to Mursell's mother

Bailey judge, who ordered the inquiry, imposed a life sentence. His mother, comforted by Jayne Zito, whose husband was also killed by a mental patient, said: "I came across people who just did not care, it was nothing to do with lack of funding ... they wanted Mursell, 28, is detained at nice cosy jobs. They did not want to deal with people like Martin. He

done their jobs. I lost my husband on that day; I also lost my son. They are going to be responsible for other deaths and other families being destroyed."

Lincoln Crawford, the harrister who headed the inquiry, said that Mursell had received minimal support. The failures were fundamental and degressing. "It was, in my view, a failure by all the professionals involved," he said.

A drug user, Mursell had a history of violence and the authorities had beer aware of a serious mental problem for five years. He had threatened to kill members of his family are "to a Hungerford". His social workers Andrew

Suttleworth and Yvonne Luby were inexperienced. A week before the attack, Mursell's mother wrote in despair to social services but was given no help. Norman Harvey and Jason Taylor, the doctors who discharged Mursell from Waterlow Psychiatric Unit, were taking a risk, said the report, and made poor arrangements for his care. His relapse was predictable. Mursell told police he stabbed

The inquiry panel called yesterday for a central body to control mental health. It said care in the community was a workable policy.

Following publication of the IIIpage report, Sylvia Denman, chairwoman of Camden and Islington Health Authority, apologised to Mrs Collins. Mrs Denman said the authority had made improvements but she would now consider

Social workers involved in the case had not bec., disciplined but no longer worked for the authority. Further inquiries would be con-ducted social services and Camden and Islington Community Health Services Trust. Dr Harvey is still employed at the psychiatric

Marjorie Wallace, chief executive of Sane, the mental health charity, said she would be writing to the Health Secretary to demand the resignation of Dr Harvey, Mrs Denman and Hannah Miller, Islington's chief social services officer. This is a quite clear case of negligence and Martin Mursell



Mary Collins at a press conference after the inquiry's report was published vesterday

should sue. This is one of the most outrageous cases we have seen." There had now been between 20 and 30 similar reports, she said. Mursell's mother, who almost died in the attack, said she visited

her son monthly at Rampton and he was progressing well. She was angered by claims by representatives of the local authority that the system, not individuals, were to

no one could be held responsible they are bloody well responsible. It's just not on. I want them to suffer too. Not one of them said. 'sorry', not one of them said 'how

# 'King Rat' jailed for threatening to shoot woman

By Audrey Magee, ireland correspondent

A LEADING Ulster loyalist nicknamed King Rat was jailed for eight years yesterday for threatening to kill a woman now living under address in England.

exiles

advens

Billy Wright, 36, was also found guilty at Belfast Crown Court of perverting the course of justice by threatening the

Wright made his threats against Gwen Reed during a punishment attack on her daughter's boyfriend in a field near a loyalist estate in Portadown, Co Armagh in August 1995: Mrs Reed. 42. from Portadown, challenged Wright in defence of the man: Wright responded by shout-

ing: "I am going to shoot you." Lord Justice McCollum yesterday congratulated Mrs Reed for coming forward with her evidence against Wright. He said she was scrupulously honest, reliable, accurate and truthful and served as an example to others in Northern

Wright, also from Portadown, has a fearsome reputation within Northern Ireland and has survived at least six attempts on his life by the IRA. He believes he has spent 12 months in police custody cells being questioned about various sectarian murders and other terrorist actions.

Within the Protestant community he is viewed as a dangerous loose cannon. He was behind the huge loyalist rally in Drumcree last year and is believed to have encouraged the Orangemen to use heavy machinery to break down the RUC and army barriers. In August 1996 the Combined Loyalist Military

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Command ordered Wright to leave Northern Ireland within 72 hours or be murdered. He did not and survived. However, the death sentence still

He joined the loyalist paramilitary group, the Ulster Volunteer Force, as a young man after witnessing the IRA kill ten Protestants near his home. He spent three years in jail on arms and hijacking charges and was held for another ten months on the word of a so-called supergrass. One RUC detective who had questioned him said: "He's as hard as nails and very, very shrewd. He knows no fear and is prepared to die for his beliefs."

Wright was not in the dock yesterday as the judge passed sentence at the end of the twoweek trial. He had earlier asked to be escorted away. protesting his innocence. At one stage during Lord Justice McCollum's judgment, he said: "I want nothing to do with this."

In his judgment, Lord Justice McCollum described Wright as an inscrutable witness whose evidence wasn't capable of belief". Wright's relatives and

friends, who also left the courtroom, claimed he had been the victim of an "act of political desperation to crush the resistance of Protestant people, their culture and religious freedom". Two other Portadown men

convicted of assault and causing grievous bodily harm for their part in the punishment beating were also sentenced. Trevor Buchanan, 29, received eight years, and Dale Wethered, 29, seven years.

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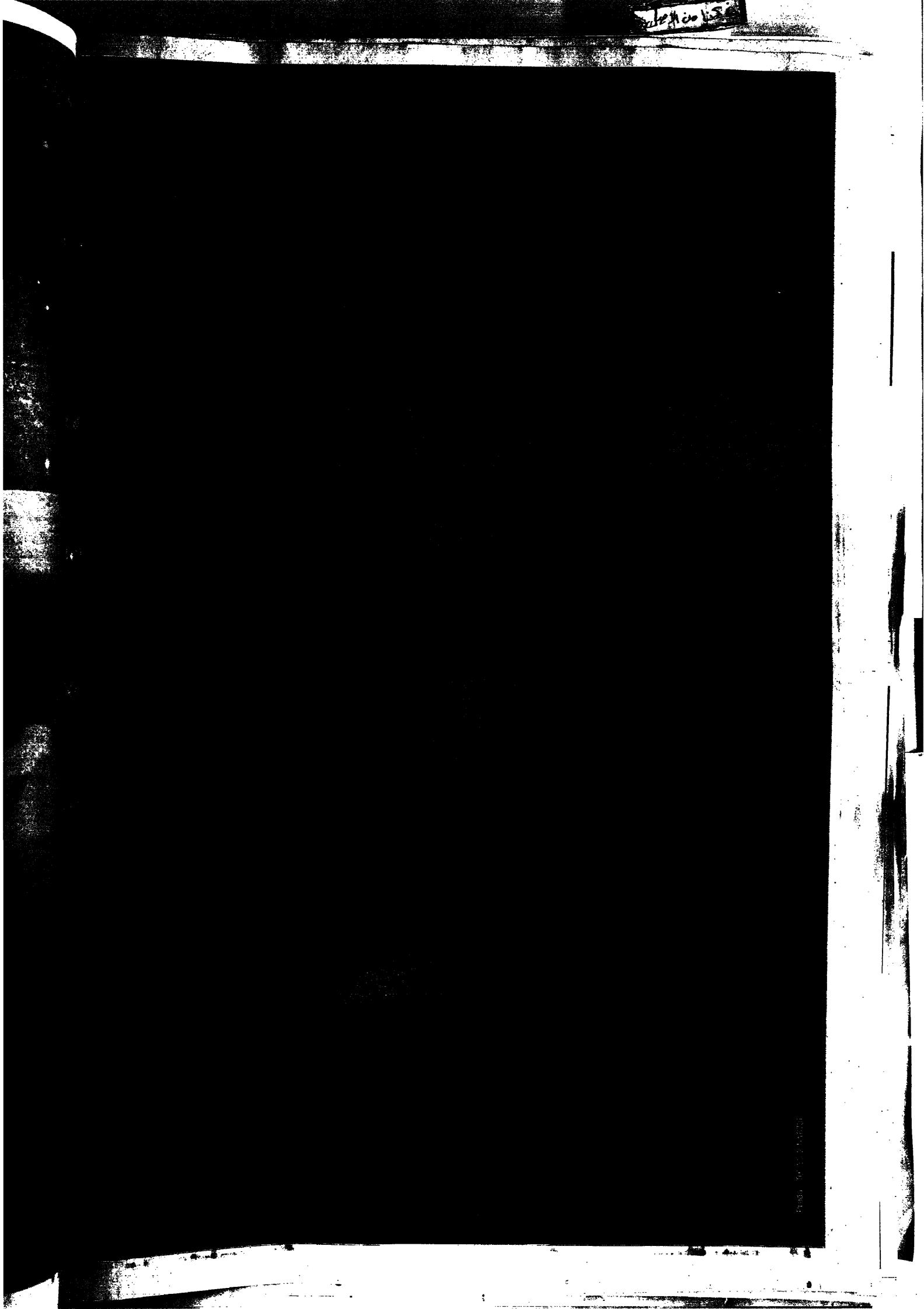
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# Seaside carnival of 'happy fire' as rebel gunmen declare war on Berisha.

SOUTHERN ALBANIA appears more in the grip of anarchy than rebellion. The trigger-happy remnants of President Berman's army. conf: :ed and frightened are without orders or aim; the diverse rebel groups are equally without command r struct re. The hills echo to the sound of automatic gunfire while the roads are controlled by a host of different militias, each with

Yet the rebels unit are in agreement on one issue. Without exception they reject Mr Berisha's offer of an amnesty in return for handing in captured weapons and are determined to fight unless he resigns. What happens in the next few days seems as certain to be



Anthony Loyd in Sarande watches a ragtag army of protesters, burning with hatred, turn economic discontent into a full-scale political revolution

confused as it is bloody. "Berisha īs a tyrant of the worst kind." said a oung fighter commanding an improvised checkpoint outside the rebel-held port of Sarande. "He is a liar and a traitor. None of us trusts his offers or his Chinese smile. There is no way we shall hand back our weapons. Unless Berisha resigns at once, the bloodshed shall begin. We shall accept nothing other than the establishment of an interim government. If

A few miles away, on the torn road leading to the Greek border, a nervous unit of government soldiers searched civilians, travellers and the first groups of refugees heading south. There was a frantic haste in the way they tore open bags and rummaged through people's belongings, and amid their swearing and shouts they kept turning to look at the hills behind them. The three ancient T55 tanks positioned round them seemed more a liability than an asset: rebels partly blew up the one bridge leading northwards, ren-dering it unusable to armour. They are Berisha's terror," an Albanian whispered, "but their

ime is coming". The promenade along the waterfront in Sarande was deserted, but for groups of rebels who were zeroing in their Kalashnikovs on empty bottles bobbing in the sea. Palm trees waved dreamily in the breeze behind them, while Corfu

The secret police headquarters, an attractive stone building, was wrecked by fire and surrounded by ournt, bullet-riouen government vehicles. The only tracic consisted of trucks of youths laden with grenades and Eastern bloc hardware speeding in all directions

In the distance someone fired an artillery piece at nothing in particular. It was an almost surreal atmosphere revolution in a seaside resort with the suggestion of only worse to come.

So far, other than the cacophony of gratuitous "happy fire" into the sky and isolated sniping incidents nearby towns, the 48-hour ceasefire appears to be holding. but more through luck than intent.

At one point a group of rebels fore away in vehicles vowing to attack and capture nearby Ciirokr ter. held by government Luops. The next minute the order was countermanded, although by who it was hard to tell and more fighters raced after the initial group to bring them back. They returned en masse glowering and muttering. "Tomorrow." one added

The fragmented nature of the forces opposing President Berisha suggests that it will be nearly impossible for a compromise deal to end the crisis without fighting. Each leaderless rebel group has its own agenda and is united only by hatred of the President.

stepping into the spotlight as a leader in case this does not succeed said flirian Alice one of the members of the Il-man interim committee in Sarande. "Yet our choices are bleak. Either we succeed or we flee to Corfu. If we ail and remain, we shall die in the worst pogrom Albania has seen."

What began as economic discontent over the collapse of pyramid investment schemes has metamorphosed into something far core dangerous. Social discontent has catalysed with political unrest. Unless President Berisha resigns. a most unlikely event, Albania seems set to become the scene form

# Europe's peace pleas fall on deaf ears in Albania.

EUROPEAN shunte diplomacy with Tirana began in earnest yesterday with little immediate effect, while the offer from President Berisha of Albania of a two-day amnesty for the laying down of arms cut little ice with south-

The President talked to the European Union's Dutch presidency and the lighterweight Council of Europe, but both organisations achieved linle result. A clearer message rever herated from the heavily armed South. "He wants our guns, we want his head." Tepeloue rebels for the benefit of the television

"The situation is frozen." Rene van der Linden, the Dutch MEP who headed the council delegation, said, "The President does not seem to realise the international pressure that can be brought on Albania." Hans van Mierlo. the Dutch Foreign Minister. who headed the EU delegation refused to comment on what the President said, referring only to a moral obliga-

Opposition politicians were not surprised at the European failure, but agreed there was little chance arms would be handed in until the President gave in to domestic and international pressure. Unlike the rebels, they have not demanded President Berisha's resignation, but they want an interim technical government. elections and a thoroughgoing investigation into the col-

lapsed pyramid schemes. The longer the President stalls, the more suspicious Al-

na that paramilitaries are being recruited; even that the President is recalling army units from the South, stripping them of their uniforms and sending them back as a secret civilian force.

banians become of his mot-

-He expects us to sign papers asking for peace while he rearms and tricks us," Blendi Gonxha, a spokesman for the Democratic Alliance, said. Mr Gonxha tried to leave on a Swiss Air flight this week. but he was arrested by secret police at the airport and held for 17 hours. He said 'They watched me all the way. I felt

#### Refugees escape to Italy

Rome: Seventy Albanians. including babies crossed to Italy yesterday in two boats but coastguards said reported sightings of two other refugee vessels turned out to be false alarms. The first

group crossed in a fishing boat from the Adriatic port of Vlore. A dinghy was found later and escorted to shore. Italy has vowed to repatriate all Albanians entering the like Al Capone." He added: "I was advised to give up my

Many in Tirana criticise the international press for referring to southern fighters as rebels". They say that nor-mally peaceful Albanians have had enough of a corrupt Government. But whatever the movement and whoever its leaders might be, yesterday it was still spreading. .

It even looked possible that the Government's southern army base in Gjirokaster might fall. Contacted by telephone, a local teacher said women and children were on the streets with guns. As she spoke, shots could be heard in the background.

The nearby military base of Gerhot had been handed over to rebels, she said, and much of the population was armed. "You just say you're in danger and then you show your ID and they'll give you a gun. she said.

Photographs in the Italian press of the President's head of personal security with a Kalashnikov at his throat dramatically illustrated the evolving North-South divide in Albania. A fact-finding mission to the rebel-held town of Tepelene late on Thursday had gone disastrously wrong for Adem Hasu and a team of Berisha bodyguards when they were recognised at a checkpoint. The Ministry of the Interior said yesterday that their whereabouts are



A boy holds a rifle decorated with flowers in a demonstration in Sarande yesterday

#### Conflict threatens city rich in history

By NORMAN HAMMOND ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE deployment of tanks in Gürokaster will aların anybody with an interest in Albania's history and culture.

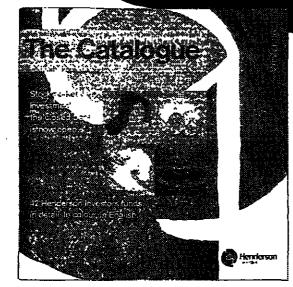
Designated as a "Museum City", the birthplace of Enver Hoxha is rich in domestic architecture of the Turkish period, especially of the 18th and 19th centuries. It also has an impressive medieval castle: founded by the Byzartines as Argyrokastron some 8. 1 ∃ars ago, the fortress fell to the Turks in 1418, and was garrisoned with 5,000 troops at the warlord Ali Pasha in 1812.

In spite of its tumultuous history, many fortified merchants' houses of Gjirokaster have survived in the Plaka. Hasmurat and market zones. The typical tower house has only a small doorway at ground level, with the windows and main rooms on the first and second floors. The reception rooms, as in

the Zekati House, seat of Ali Pasha's local governor, are

often richly decorated with murals, carved wood and textiles, rare survivals of Albanian folk culture as it existed under Turkish occupation. The Zgendula House is an ethnographic museum, and its collection of folklore is e. langered by the current unrest. More alarming are the Xhamija e Pazarit moscue, and the two coeval churches of Shen Mehilli and Shen Sotiri.

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#### **Economy** at risk if investors rethink

FROM JANET MCBRIDE IN TIRANA

ALBANIA risks lurching from political to economic crisis if it does not swiftly end the violence in the South of the country, economists said yesterday.

Western firms that had been tempted to pump money into developing over 170 miles of Adriatic coastline and recovering oil and metal deposits may reconsider after last weekend's insurrection. An alarming drop in con-

sumer spending that accompanied the rise and fall of fraudulent pyramid investment schemes is also threatening domestic enterprise. Retail sales dropped by half

at the end of last year as Albanians poured their meagre savings into the pyramids. When they crumbled in January, people scrambled to exchange leks for dollars, driving the domestic currency

down by up to 50 per cent. On Friday the lek was quoted at 134-137 to the dollar on Tirana's grey, open-air currency market, compared with 104 in early January. "The country needs to get

back to a normal business environment. There are major difficulties ahead and if they are not overcome soon, the costs will be higher," said Carlos Elbirt the World Bank's resident representative in Tirana.

The destruction is in itself a big problem. In addition there is the question of how much damage there has been in terms of business that will not materialise."

Oil firms, including Occidental Petroleum Corp of the United States and Austria's OMV AG, have been drilling offshore. Some have also been eyeing onshore sites. Other foreign firms, mainly from Italy and Greece, have put money into producing textiles and shoes.

Analysts say events over the nast two months will have done little to instil confidence abroad. But the country still has hope, because of its abundant natural sources. (Reuter)

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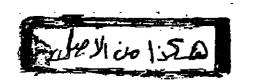
Notice Acounts	£5 000 ** Gross p.s.	£10,000 Gross p.a.	£25,000 Gross p.a.
Alliance & Leicester	4.95%	<b>5.65</b> %	<b>5.70</b> %
Halifax	n/a	4.90%	5.15%
Abbey National	3.30%	4.00%	4.55%
Nationwide	4.75%	5.40%	5.60%
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Blast Oir 13 MS12-11()11 leaves two

# Aboriginal male artist unveiled as white woman

From Roger Maynard in sydney

THE Australian art world swooned when they saw the Western Australia. Under swooned when they saw the work of "Aboriginal" painter Eddie Burrup, whose haunting canvases depicted Aboriginal "Dreamtime" legends.

The only trouble is, Eddie Burrup does not exist. He is a figment of the imagination of an 82-year-old white woman whose hoax has embarrassed the cognoscenti and infuriated the nation's indigenor a tists. Not since Brisbane literary award winner, Helen Demidenko, admitted she fooled the publishing world in 1995 by assuming a false identity. have Australia's artistic elite

been so humbled. The elderly painter who so successfully pulled the wool over everyone's eyes, is in fact Elizabeth Durack, a pastoralist, author and amateur anthropologist who lives in the

Church

exiles

1-File

advens

Burrup's fictitious name, she produced a range of critically acclaimed work, including paintings, photographs and even an autobiography. Evrecluse living a hermit's existence in the Outback.

"His" creations were so impressive that they even featured in a touring Aboriginal art show. This month some of the works were due to be entered for the highly respect-ed Sulman Prize, to be announced on March 21. But after yesterday's revelation "Burrup's" work will almost certainly be withdrawn.

Durack, of Irish descent, is a member of one of the country's most famous pioneering families. She is a well-known painter in her own right and



Elizabeth Durack, a painter in her own right, has confessed to her deception, infuriating Australia's indigenous artists

confessed to her deception in an arts magazine, but refused to explain her motivation. "It's my last creative phase," was

all she would say.

However, art historian Robert Smith, a close family friend, defended her actions. "She has created a character, just as a playwright or a poet

or a novelist will create a character," he said. "She hasn't appropriated any motifs or themes, or forms of Aboriginal art at all," he

Members of the Aboriginal art community were less forgiving, claiming she had stolen indigenous culture. "It's the last thing left that you could possibly take away other than our lives or shoot us all," John Mundine, an Aboriginal art curator, said. Doreen Mellor, senior curator at Flinders Art Museum in Adelaide, said: "As an Aboriginal person I feel really offended."

fairs than many other white settlers, having lived among Australia's indigenous people in Kimberley for nearly 180 years. In the last century the Duracks had a reputation as the only family of pastoralists Ironically, the Durack famwho did not shoot Aborigines.

ily probably has a deeper knowledge of Aboriginal af-

## Nation with a gift for deflating the complacent experts

FROM DAVID BENTLEY IN BRISBANE

AUSTRALIA has a history of hoaxes, literary and artistic. The most recent is the saga of the Brisbane writer, Helen Demidenko, whose book The Hand that Signed the Paper, carried off Australia's presti-gious Miles Franklin literary award in 1995.

هدا من الاصليم

Demidenko passed herself off to the judges and to the public as the offspring of a Ukrainian peasant named Markov. In reality she was the bookworm daughter of a British-born couple, Harry and Grace Darville.

Controversy surrounding the book's perceived anti-Semitism reached fever pitch when her identity was disclosed. Publishers Allen and Unwin were forced to recall copies under the nom de plume - releasing the book under Helen Darville's

The event recalled the famous episode of Ern Malley, an Australian poet whose work convinced Penguin editor Max Harris in 1944 that he had stumbled on a genius. Unfortunately Malley was a figment of the collective

imagination of poets James art. To expose "the decay of meaning and craftsmanship in poetry", the pair compiled the Malley Poems by cutting and pasting lines at random from dictionaries, mixing them with a report on swamp

In the 1950s another literary hoaxer, John O'Grady, wrote his best-selling book, They're a Weird Mob, under the pseudonym Nino Culotta, apparently based on the firstperson experiences of an !talian immigrant.

West Australian artist Elizabeth Durack's revelation that she used a male Aboriginal pseudonym, Eddic Burrup, has revived memories of a row over fakes passed off as the works of the late Aboriginal artist, Emily Kngwarreye. An Emily school emerged overnight, mostly comprising family members who under Aboriginal law are entitled to paint the same stories. Forgers have made a meal of famous Australian artists such as Norman Lyndsay and Sir Arthur Streeton.

## **Blast on Beijing** rush-hour bus leaves two dead

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN BELJING

AN EXPLOSION on a crowded bus in Beijing's busy Xidan shopping district during the rush hour last night killed two passengers and injured at least eight others, Chinese

Police set up roadblocks around central Beijing and were stopping and searching cars and checking drivers' identity papers. There was no immediate confirmation that the explosion was caused by a bomb, but observers said this was the most likely cause of

Emergency workers at the Jishui Tan hospital confirmed that injured people suffering from burns had been admitted and were receiving treatment. Witnesses at the hospital said the bus had pulled up at a stop and that the blast occurred

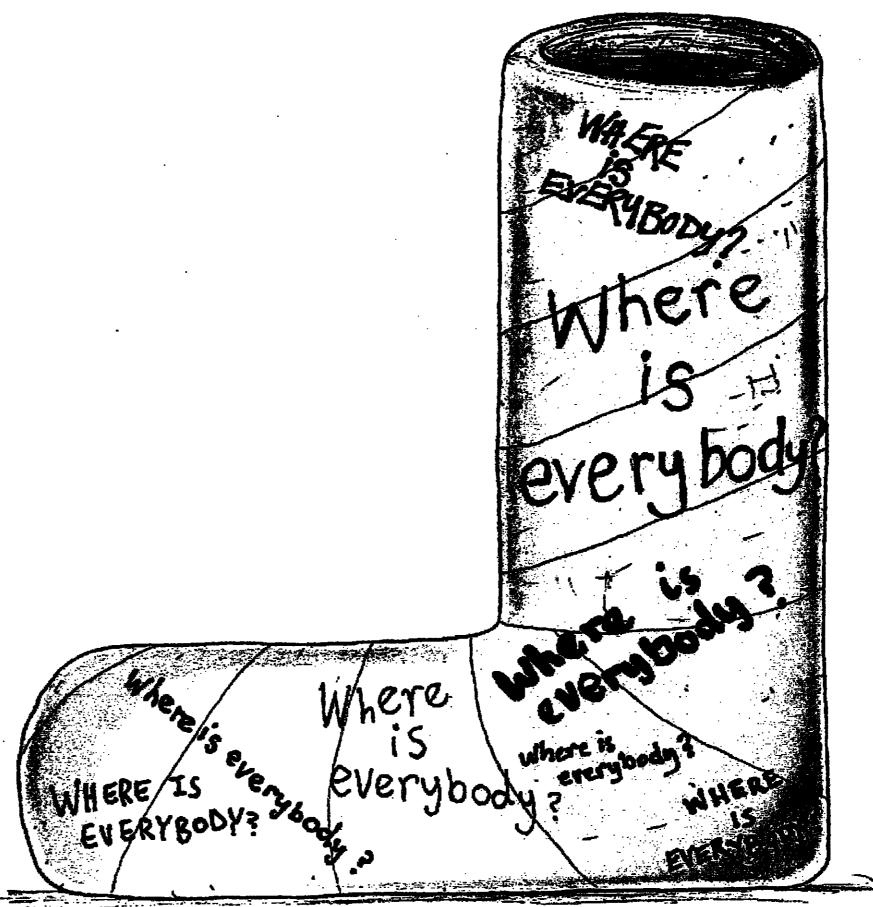
vhen the doors opened. Police and local officials refused to confirm anything had occurred but said they were investigating. Beijing has seen uncharacteristic tension during the past two weeks, a period that has also seen the death and funeral of senior leader Deng Xiaoping. There have been bomb attacks in the northwest Chinese region of Xinjiang in which nine people died. Members of a separatist group of Muslim Uighurs, a Turkic-speaking minority, claimed responsibility for the blasts.

Beijing called Xinjiang village, where Uighurs have settled and opened several restaurants, has been the scene of heavy police surveillance over the past two weeks. Authorities were concerned that the violence could spread to Beijing. Exiled Uighur nationalists

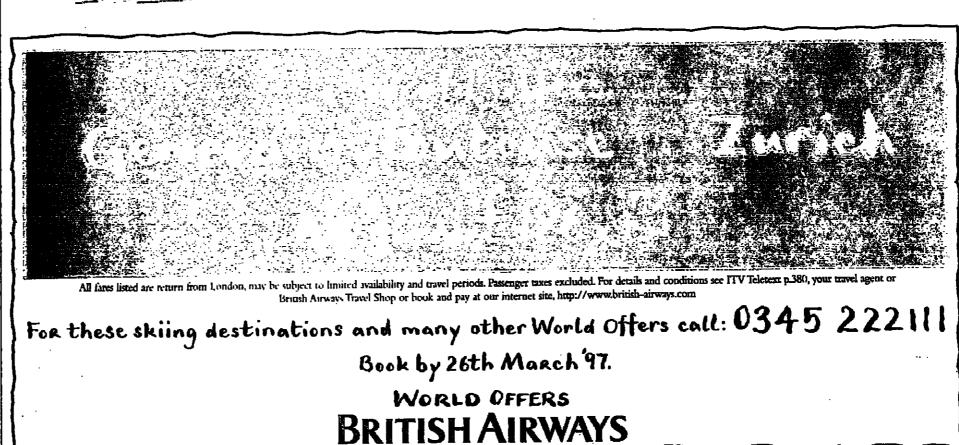
in neighbouring Kazakhstan said they organised the Xinjiang bombings and also a similar, previously unreported attack near the Kazakh border on Monday. The sepa-ratists want to set up an independent "East Turkestan"

in Xinjiang.
The Chinese capital, despite the violent suppression of prodemocracy demonstrations in 1989 and earlier student protests, is unused to terrorist violence. However, police have been on alert recently because of tensions with

North Korea. Police vans have been stationed outside the North Korean Embassy in Beijing for the past two weeks in case the North Koreans try to take a defector. Hwang Jang Yop, by force from the South Korean







The world's favourite airline

# Cash scandal undermines Gore's hopes

'You don't get a mint on the pillow in the White House you leave one'

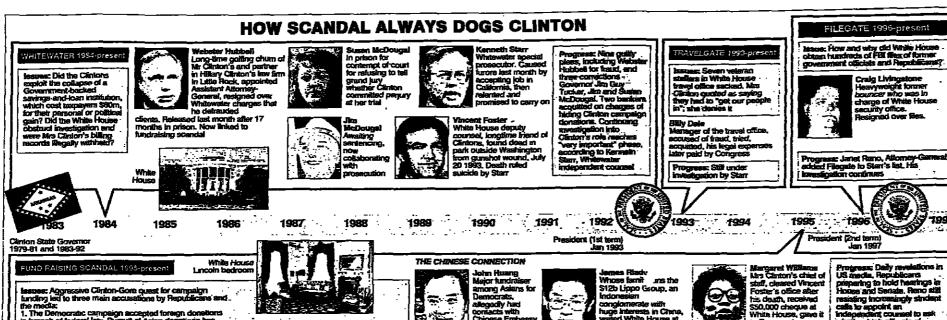
FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

IT IS little comfort to President Clinton, but the allegation that he offered an overnight stay in the White House's Lincoln Bedroom to people who might give money to his campaign has spawned some of the best political jokes of his presidency. As Don Imus, the New York talk-show host, put it, in the Lincoln Bedroom "you don't get a mint on the pillow. you leave one".

The issue of questionable fundraising is casting a shadow over Mr Clinton's second term, just when the Whitewater investigations of his first term appeared to run out of steam. This week the allegations spread to Hillary Clinton and Al Gore.

A furious Mr Clinton said yesterday that he was being unfairly persecuted and distracted from implementing policies that the United States urgently needs. But his critics say that he allowed campaign donors to influence policy and that, like Richard Nixon, he has abused the presidency to secure re-election. The conservative columnist William Safire argues that "in a democracy, no official may use government power for the

purpose of staying in power". The Democrats' fundraising scramble began in 1995 after they were trounced in the midterm elections. As Mr Clinton's former senior adviser, George Stephanopoulos, says



in this week's Newsweek, getting Mr Clinton re-elected -would take cash, tons of it, and everybody from the President on down knew it. Money became an obsession at the highest levels.

money, as in core = manual flowers and the the Linco S. White House perks, including rights in the the Linco S. White House perks including rights to donors. Barbra series offered as revealed to donors. Barbra series of the se

Details of both parties' fundraising became available after the election, the most expensive in American history, and congressional committees began to debate campaign finance reform. In the past month committees have dragged a series of confidential Democratic memorandums into the light, provoking headlines of "another day, another scandal".

Republicans have homed in on two specific charges. The first is relatively clear-cut: that the Democratic National Committee illegally accepted foreign money. The committee admits it did take cash from Asian companies and businessmen, but says that it was unaware of the donors' identities, it has returned the cash. amounting to more than \$2 million (El.2 million).

The second charge, that Democrats illegally used federal buildings, including the White House, for political

President Gore admitted that gripped the public imaginahe made campaign calls from tion like Nixon's midnight his White House telephone, burglary. But they have the but says he paid for them with power to damage Mr Clinton a Democratic National Comand the Democratic Party mittee credit card. Legal combecause they may prompt mentators point out that some more investigations. The laws which Republicans say clamour for Janet Reno, the he breached predate the inven-Attorney-General, to appoint an independent counsel is tion of the telephone. In themselves, these charges

of illegality do not amount to a likely to vote next week on

Watergate, nor have they

Senator Fred Thompson \$6 million to conduct a separate investigation. Even more important, the

specific charges implicitly raise wider issues which potentially have the gravity of Watergate. One question is whether Mr Clinton allowed his courtship of donors to influence policy.

At a time of tension between America and China, his Chinese contacts have aroused much concern. It emerged this week that Webster Hubbell, a friend of Mr Clinton convicted of Whitewater charges, received a payment by Chinese property developers at the same time as the Administration approved US participation in the development.

The second serious question

gues, Mr Clinton abused the presidency to keep himself in office. It is not illegal for the President to book guests into the Lincoln Bedroom or to give

tycoons coffee in the White House. But the stories depict a President well aware of the commercial value of his office and, to many, that leaves an unpleasant aftertaste. So far the dispute has not dented Mr Clinton's public

approval ratings. But it has associated Mr Gore with the President's least attractive characteristics and has severely weakened the Democrats' future ability to raise funds. Even if the row continues to fall short of Watergate in gravity or resonance, it could destroy Mr Gore's hopes that he will occupy the White House in 2000.

is whether, as Mr Safire ar-

Saddam's . son says Iranians shot him

Life fi black black killed

fishing in

By MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

UDAY, the elder son of Saddam Hussein, has blamed Iran for the armed attack on him last year, saying he saw his assailants and could tell they were not Arabs.

They looked different. Arabs have beards like mine. Iranians have longer beards. In general we can differentiate clearly between Arabs and Iranians," he told CNN in his first interview to Western television since he was shot. He said time had shown that Iran was involved in such-incidents, which had occurred elsewhere in the region.

"We make the connection between the eight-year war we waged with them and betrayal and backstabbing since the birth or Islam," he added.

Blaming Iran publicly sug-gests that Saddam has decided to go on the offensive against Iran in an attempt to show solidarity with neighbouring Arab Gulf countries that have broken relations with Iraq but also accuse Iran of stirring up trouble.

Uday, reported to be unable to walk and with a bullet lodged in his spine, said he was alone in his car at the time of the close-range attack. Earlier reports said bodyguards were with him and that at least one was killed.

He said he was hit many times in various parts of the body, but he was recovering. and French doctors Iraqi would operate on him shortly. Waving his hand, he denied that he was paralysed, and said there was a "good chance" that he would be able to play sports again.

He rejected as "baseless reports" by ignorant people rumours that members of his family had been involved in the attack. A committee investigating it would report shortly, he said. But it had not been easy for Iraqi security to get information, as the operation had been precisely planned.

He refused to answer a question about his position of power in Iraq, and said any Iraqi who had asked such a question would be punished. He emphasised his loyalty to his father, who, he said, "has always put us in the same position as the ordinary

# 'Irregularities' cost UN millions

New York: The United Nations Development Programme has suspended two staff members and is investigating 14 others after the discovery that it overpaid by as much as \$6 million (£3.7 million) for the construction of premises in developing countries over the last

eight years (James Bone writes). Gustave Speth, the agency's head, said the

larities" and "failures" in the organisation's financial controls. particularly in contracting with outside parties. The countries involved were Zambia, Uganda, Maldives, Ghana, Mozambique, Comoros. São Tome. Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau. Mr Speth said the

agency would take appropriate action.

"borrowing" Angela's womb were unable to become pregnant for medical reasons. One is aged 27 and had her womb and an ovary removed after haemorrhaging. The other. 32.

has a heart condition. "I know how beautiful it is to be a mother," said Angela, who has two children of her own. "Even someone who cannot become pregnant should be able to experience being a mother," she told Il Messaggero. Asked if

she considered the babies she was expecting as being her own children. she replied: "A little yes and a little no." She and her husband had taken together the decision to lend her womb. She said that she was a practising Catholic, but feels that her conscience is clear.

Dr Bilotta hit headlines two years ago when he arranged for a baby to be born after the death of her mother by using frozen embryos.



#### Rome minister attacks 'rent a womb' woman expecting twins not be made public. The embryonic Concetti, a leading Catholic theolo-

gian, said: "This is a new step

towards the madness of assisted

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

AN ITALIAN woman has lent her womb to two infertile couples and is expected to give birth in September to twins she will never see, doctors said

"I am lending my body to make other families happy," said Angela, a Rome shopkeeper who is 12 weeks pregnant, asking that her surname

engineering experiment is believed to be the first of its kind in the world. It was immediately condemned by the Roman Catholic Church and the Italian Government.

This episode, like others that have come to light recently, poses the question of urgent legislation to regulate both cloning and assisted fertilisation." Rosy Bindi, the Italian Health Minister, said. The Rev Gino

procreation." Angela became pregnant with the twins after embryos from the two couples were implanted in her in

Switzerland by Swiss doctors under the supervision of a Rome gynaecologist. Dr Pasquale Bilotta. In Italy such embryonic meddling is illegal. The women in the two couples

es take on Portsmouth

The quarter-final 

Damon Lill begins his defense of the world charmonisms at the Australian Grand Pri

Title Welloune

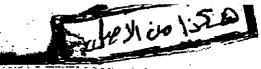
Melvyn Bragg looks at the importance of putting poetry back on the cultural map.

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CHANGING TIMES

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# · Life for Austrian black widow' who killed lonely hearts

By Roger Boyes

AUSTRIA'S "Black Widow" serial killer was jailed for life yesterday after a jury, arguing until the early hours, found her guilty of murder in a specimen case.

Elfriede Blauensteiner, a matronly 66-year-old, gained her nickname because, like female spiders, she killed her mates. At least five well-off pensioners, usually contacted through a lonely hearts' column, fell victim to her lethal brew of diabetic medicine and anti-depressants mixed with bedtime hot chocolate.

The specimen case was of Alois Pichler, a 77-year-old former postmaster. His lonely hearts' advertisement suggest ed that he was lonely and welloff, and Blauensteiner moved in with him soon after their first contact

Two weeks later the man who had never been seriously ill before, fell into a coma. Two months later he was dead. Before his death his will had been changed in Blauensteiner's favour.

The dead man's nephew was suspicious and demanded an autopsy, at which it was discovered that Pichler died of

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heart failure brought on by large doses of Euglucon, a medicine for diabetics. Four months before meeting

Pichler. Blauensteiner had buried her previous partner, a rich pensioner. Friedrich Doccker. Police investigated his case as well as her previous companions and discovered that she had left a trail of

6 Widow, early sixties, would like to share the quiet autumn of her life with a widower 🤊

death. Her accomplice in the Pichler case was Harald Schmidt, a lawyer who helped to change the wills. He was imprisoned yesterday for seven years.

Blauensteiner was a familiar figure in the casino in Baden, a short drive outside Vienna, where she played roulette, blackjack and slot machines. But the defence offered deeper psychological reasons, claiming that she was driven by a hatred of poverty and men. Her father died on the Russian front and she grew up with six brothers and sisters in a one-room Vienna flat. The only possibility of escape seemed to be marriage. but her first husband deserted her after the birth of their

HAVE CHARLESTER WINDOWS VIEW VIEW

"Since then," she told the court, "i have hated men." Her lonely hearts advertisements failed to mention this. Her typical entry was: Widow, early sixties, 1.65 metres, would like to share the quiet autumn of her life with a widower. I am a housewife, gardener, nurse, and a faithful companion."

She confessed to at least five

murders, but later withdrew the admissions. Of her first victim, she said: "I freed him from his pain." The second, a railway executive, poisoned over a period of six years, "deserved to die".

The Black Widow - who wore black in court vesterday - departed briefly from her pattern by poisoning a female neighbour in 1992. "She was ill

and was suffering," said Blau-Her lifestyle was that of a rich ensteiner, who ensured that woman: generous tips, flashy

the woman's will was altered

in her favour. At least three

Pichler, followed.

other male victims, including After 12 hours of deliberation, ending at 3 am, the eight-Blauensteiner collected member jury in Krems, west more than £1.2 million in of Vienna, decided that she inherited property and cash. had been motivated by "pure

restaurants and expensive fur

greed". Blauensteiner was described by the police as cold as ice". When asked if she understood the sentence. she said defiantly: "I under-

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yes-

terday appointed Anatoli Chu-

bais, his powerful Chief of

Staff, as First Deputy Prime

Minister. The free-marketeer

will be entrusted with the task

of leading Russia's new drive

His appointment, made by

the President's office, came as

politicians waited in suspense

for Mr Yeltsin's sweeping

Cabinet reshuffle, which some

fear could turn into a purge.

Mr Chubais, who will serve

under Viktor Chernomyrdin,

the Prime Minister, held the

same post until he was ousted

last year. He later master-

minded Mr Yeltsin's landslide

election victory.

for economic reform.

The court had been told that she arrived late at Pichler's funeral, threw a red rose on

stand perfectly."

the coffin and said: "Adieu Alois". On the way back from the

The appointment came a

day after Mr Yeltsin promised

sweeping changes to clean up

a Government he accused of

Mr Chubais is seen in the

vilified by the Opposition.

Gennadi Žyuganov, the Com-

munist Party leader, said: "We

will not obey orders from

Chubais, no matter what his

☐ Chechnya amnesty: The

Duma, swallowing wounded

pride over defeat in Chechnya,

voted to give an amnesty to

Chechen fighters in a hid to

win freedom for Russian pris-

oners of war. (Reuter)

being "corrupt".

position."

cemetery, on the back of the obituary notice, she scribbled the draft of a new lonely hearts' ad: "Widow, living alone, early sixties, car driver. attractive, seeks civil servant.

Yeltsin puts top aide

in charge of reform

By Richard Beeston-and Our Foreign Staff

WORLD SUMMARY

#### **Trial faces** lover of **Aids Briton**

London: Greek Cypriot authorities are to prosecute a local fisherman who allegedly infected a British woman holidaymaker with Aids while he knew he was a carrier

(Frances Gibb writes). The Attorney-General, Alexander Markides, said yesterday that criminal charges would be brought against Paul Georgiou for passing the disease to Janette Pink, 39, a mother-of-two from Basildon.

#### Basque cleared

Madrid: Spain's fragile jury system has come under attack after a jury in San Sebastián found a young Basque radical not guilty of the murder of two policemen, even after he confessed to taking "deliberate aim" and shooting the two men (Tunku Varadarajan writes). The jury said he "was not fully in control of himself at the time of the shooting.

#### Israeli pullout

Jerusalem: Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, vesterday narrowly overcame right-wing opposi-tion to secure Cabinet approval for withdrawing troops from 9 per cent more of the occupied West Bank (Christopher Walker writes). The decision was promptly denounced by the Palestinians, who had expected 30 per cent.

#### Belgians' plea

Brussels: The family of the latest Belgian girl found mur-dered appealed for calm after youths rioted over police incompetence. The remains of Loubna Benaissa, nine, were found at a garage five years after she vanished. Patrick West as a dedicated devotee of Derochette, a sex offender the free market but he is working at the garage, has reportedly confessed to raping and murdering her. (AP)

#### Manley dies at 72

Kingston: Michael Manley, the former Prime Minister of Jamaica, a legendary figure in Caribbean politics and a lead-er of Third World causes, has died of prostate cancer. He was 72 (Reuter)

Obituary, page 23



Elfriede Blauensteiner is led into court early yesterday to be sentenced for one specimen murder charge

# Fishing threat to wildlife haven

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRIAL fishing fleets have begun plundering the inshore waters around the world's most famous wildlife haven in a development that poses a dangerous threat to the unique Galapagos Islands wildlife.

Researchers said yesterday that tuna ships from Japan, the Ecuadorean mainland, Taiwan, North America and elsewhere were hoovering up fish stocks near the shore in defiance of the law. The fish, many of which are being discovered to be unique and found nowhere else in the world, are vital food sources for the islands' famous penguins and birds, including the red, blue and masked boobies.

Scientists, speaking in London, said that other disturbing developments were also emerging, including a sharp rise in the number of . sealions being slaughtered for their

penises. They are being sold as aphrodisiacs to the Far East ... and the sealions' meat is being used as bait to catch sharks. These are being killed in increasing numbers, with their fins sold for sharkfin soup to the Far East and to communities on the Pacific coast of America," Dr Jack Grove, a scientist and expert of more than 20 years' experience in the islands, said.

Dr Grove, speaking at a meeting of the Galapagos Conservation Trust, said urgent international pressure was needed to save the rare and unique fish, sharks and other marine life. He said that the overfishing was part of a worldwide problem. But the value of the islands, in terms of their beauty and wildlife, should outweigh quick

Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, based in Switzerland, was considering listing the Galápagos as "a World Heritage Site in peril".

Dr Grove, a member of Conservation Network and research associate in fish at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, said that the islands' wildlife, including giant tortoises and iguanas, were well known, but much of the marine life was emerging as unique. Many fish, like the land animals, appeared unafraid of man, he added, and were easy to catch and kill.

Emma Ridley, a guide with the Galapagos National Park, said yesterday that local laws allowed by people living in the islands, but now they were witnessing uncontrolled spear-fishing and



Galápagos sealions at Hood Island

#### He added that the International industrial fishing. WHICH WOULD YOUR FAMILY

MISS THE MOST?



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# Former British school teacher earns respect by keeping noisy band of leftwingers in order

# Classroom tactics rule

**BRUSSELS FILE** 

by CHARLES BREMNER

IN GALLIC governing circles, one of the sharpest putdowns is to acfailing to "know his dossier". Disgruntled Euro-leftwingers are levelling that charge these

days against the formidable Englishwoman who holds the second most powerful post in the Euro-

Pauline Green, Labour MEP for North London, who leads the European Socialists, the biggest bloc in the European assembly. Italians in her flock with the way she whipped them into line in a

elevated to high office in the

European Parliament, just in time

to tackle another Belgian car

feud. Julian Priestley, 46, who has

spent his whole career in the halls

of Euro-power, has taken over as

secretary-general, or administra-

His immediate difficulty is to

tor, of the itinerant assembly.

move to rebuke the Commission for its handling of the BSE crisis. "It was almost Stalinist," a French Socialist said, still smarting from Mrs Green's efforts to drive through a middle course that in the end saved Jacques Santer and his colleagues from a censure vote that could have had them dis-missed. The bout of parliamentary

arm-twisting was all in a day's

Euro-drivers in a jam authorities over parking places at the Parliament's gleaming new E600 million seat. It is equipped with underground parking for the cars of nearly 3,000 MEPs and their attendants. But, to acclaim from local residents, the Belgians have banned the Euro-people from using more than a third of the slots because they fear traffic

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(no blog tee) WINNER OF

19 MAJOR AWARDS

BARRY STANTON

AN INSPECTOR CALLS THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN

O Mail "TWO HOURS OF

JESSICA LANGE

A STREETCAR

JB Priesdey's

DONAGHY

SUZANNE

Mrs Green, 48, a former Metropolitan policewoman and school teacher. who has earned respect, if not affecfrom her motley army of 213

leftwingers, who range from Scottish Old Labourites and Glenys Kinnock to German party barons and six French former Cabinet ministers. Mrs Green was picked as leader in 1994 after Britain elected 65 Labour MEPs, making them the biggest single-party bloc in the assembly that works in Brussels and Strasbourg. The Parliament's only post with a higher profile is that of its president, José-María Gil Robles Although almost unknown in

figure in the Co-operative movement. Mrs Green cuts an imposing figure in the halls of Europower. Her 15-nation group has clout in the business of legislation. "Pauline is happy ilking towards the sound of gunfire," a lieutenant says. "She is not averse to throwing her weight around." Mrs Green's forthright

Britain, where she is a leading



Pauline Green receives roses after being elected leader of the Socialists in the European Parliament

Eurocrat. In one sortie last month, she laid into Mr Santer for his 'shambolic" management of the mad cow affair and told him he had nine months to "put your house in order". She dismissed Douglas Hogg as "Britain's hap-

less Agriculture Minister".

A mother of two and wife of a London police commander, the monolingual Mrs Green has made her name as an old-style party manager and deal-maker. As such, she has earned the respect of her rival, the cerebral Elisabeth Guigou, who led France's Maastricht negotiations as a minister under the late

President Mitterrand. Mrs Green's toughest challenge has been to lead a largely Europhile bloc while staving clear of the EU minefield in British politics and keeping her Labour battalion in line. The Euro-Labour Party fell foul of Tony Blair in 1995 when about three dozen unreformed MEPs signed a petition to keep the party's old Clause Four. But the pair now consult once a month and Mr Blair is said to recognise that the tough MEP will be an asset if Labour gains power.

## Old foes join forces over jobs

THERE has never been much love lost between Belgium and its big southern neighbour, but the decision by Renault last week to close its Belgian car factory at Vilvoorde in the Brussels suburbs. has triggered a spasm of anti-French fury. The chief target is Louis Schweitzer, the French civil servant who became boss of the motor firm in 1992.

M Schweitzer could hardly have done better if he had set out to turn himself into the most reviled villain outside jail. By announcing the imminent loss of about 4,000 jobs, including those of suppliers, he united the Wal-

loons and Flemings.
Nobody apparently had told Renault's grand patron that Vilvoorde was home to Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Prime Minister. Flemish newspapers distributed the portrait of the owlish former inspector of finances stamped with the word hartelos (heartless]. A new joke is doing the rounds: How many Frenchmen can fit in a Clio? Just one. The other three seats are needed for his "complexe de superiorité".

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# Renault workers stage strikes

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

IN AN unprecedented trans-European strike. Renault workers yesterday staged simultaneous stoppages in France, Belgium and Spain to protest against the car maker's decision to close its factory at Vilvoorde in Belgium and cut 6.000 iobs.

Despite union fury and a storm of criticism from French politicians and the European Commission, Louis Schweitzer, the Renault chairman. insisted that the closure of the Belgian factory in July with the loss of 3,100 jobs was traumatic but necessary. "It's a brutal, hard and painful decision." M Schweitzer said. If we do nothing, the company will die "

Up to one third of workers downed tools for one hour during each shift in Paris and other parts of France, while Belgian demonstrators from the threatened Vilvoorde plant massed outside the French



Schweitzer: concedes decision is brutal

Embassy in Brussels and threw a car chassis across police barricades, Belgian Repault dealers across the country joined the protest by

shutting up shop.

The Renault board has approved a pian to shed an additional 2,764 jobs in France, where stoppages began overnight at the Renault factory in Le Mans, and

continued vesterday at plants in Cleon, Sandouville and Douai. About 90 per cent of work-

ers at four Renault plants in Spain downed tools for one hour and employees at factories operated in Belgium by General Motors, Volkswagen, Ford. Opel and Volvo also staged one-hour strikes in solidarity with their Renault counterparts.

Workers at Renault plants in Portugal, however, did not respond to the strike call. Union leaders last night hailed the so-called "Eurostrike" as proof of cross-border workers' unity in the face of

glaring gaps in European

social legislation. M Schweitzer suggested that a new use might be found for the Vilvoorde factory and that some workers may be transferred to other plants. but he showed no sign of backing off from the radical

restructuring plan. Critics claim that he is callously taking advantage of

different labour costs across Europe, and on Thursday Karl Van Miert, the European Commissioner, announced he was blocking Spanish invest-ment subsidies for Renault on the grounds that it was "absurd" to close the profitable Belgian plant.

The Spanish Government yesterday decided to suspend its request for approval of an £8 million subsidy it had planned to provide for a Renault investment in Valla-

The management of the newly-privatised French automaker claims that the Vilvoorde plant was singled. out because it has the highest

production costs. While President Chirac of France has expressed \*shock\* at the abrupt way the closure was announced as M Schweitzer pointed out "the French Government has not said that the decision should be altered, corrected or that it was not good for the

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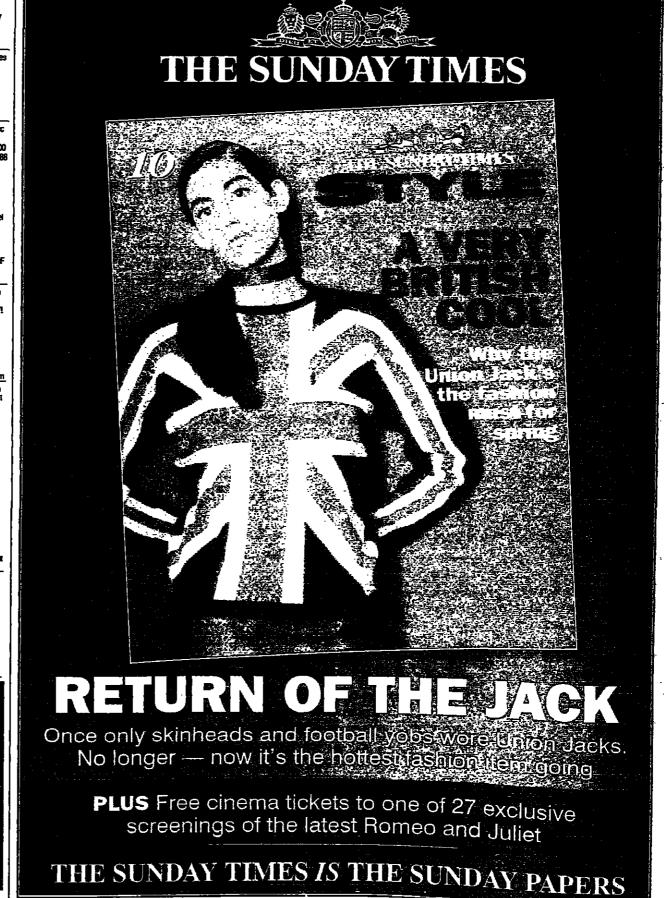
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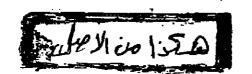
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ARCH 8 1997

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The French are so proud of their blue movies that they are mounting a festival of them in London



VISUAL ART

Welsh National Opera's staging of Iphigénie en Tauride is about as good as it gets

THE



THEATRE

Widows sees Ariel Dorfman returning to the same harrowing themes as in Death and the Maiden



ه ي العالم

ON MONDAY

In Stratford an epic production of The Mysteries hits the stage: read Benedict Nightingale's view

hen it comes to moaning about malign foreign influences on their culture, the French are universally acclaimed as world champions, Nothing makes hackles rise faster in Paris than the suspicion that les Anglais have concocted a dastardplan to infiltrate the French language with hundreds of English words, or that Hollywood's secret agenda is to steamroller the French film industry to oblivion.

But now the French are hitting back. What's more, they are deploying a weapon so potent that it could rock the very foundations of British society. Yes, it's sex.

Every country makes sex films. Everyone has watched them at some time or another. (Oh all right, Virginia, you haven't.) But the French believe that theirs are a cut above the rest. Other nations produce blue movies. The French. make "erotic masterpieces". And this week, to prove the point, they launched a huge official festival of their erotica right in the heart of London. The ultra-respectable

First shots in a rumpy-pumpy war Institut Français, the French Government's cultural outpost in Britain, is to show 50 of "the most subversive films ever made in

France or financed by French

money - the forbidden fruit of

French cinema". Never before have so many Gallic gropes, so many frolics françaises, been unleashed in quick succession on innocent British sensibilities. Our stiff upper lips may never recover. Mon Dieu, even as I type les titres my fingers are trembling. Here is the ravish-ing Bardot in Vadim's Et Dieu crèu la femme, and another eternal heart-throb, Jeanne Moreau, in Maile's Les Amants, now 40 years old but still censored on British videos. The naughty old Institut Français is showing it uncut on Monday.

Here is Bunuel's L'Age d'or. banned for 50 years, and his Belle

de Jour. How many schoolboys of the 1960s scraped through O-level French by slipping illicitly into that fantasy-laden classic and making a close study of Catherine

Deneuve's exquisite vowels?

And if that's too arty for your taste there's also Emmanuelle complete with that epic scene of ingenious if improbable rumpypumpy in an aircraft keo - and the British premiere of the 1975 sensation, Histoire d'O, which is apparently so shocking that the French have never dared let it cross la Manche before, in case it gives us ideas. And if you think this is old hat, the Institut is also screening "erotic vignettes" of the 1990s.

Clearly, this is the first shot in a cultural war. The French have flung down the gauntlet, and indeed the rest of their clothing. Their film industry is obviously over-sexed, over-subsidised and · IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

over here. Our own British Council must retaliate. Hire the best filmhouse in Paris, chaps. Round up the sauciest oeuvres in British cinema. Shall we say Confessions of a Window Cleaner and Carry

On Nurse for starters? Let's show our continental friends that, if it comes to serious action on the dirty-mac front, the British are quite capable of holding their own.

nd on the subject of highbrow cultural exchanges, are you up to speed on this year's Eurovision Song Contest? Readers of The Times - sophisticated, mature individuals, on the whole - perhaps may not be aware that Britain's participation in this venerable joust has reached something of a crisis point. We used to win the thing quite often. Now we haven't won for years.

To make matters worse, the Irish and Norwegians (unlikely victors in recent years) have changed the rules. In the old days, it was either a belter year or a shaker year. If it was a belter year, some glass-shattering, gurgling,

trocities occur. The ty-

rants responsible are forced from power. But

the new government is inse-

cure, dependent on the good-

will of the army, or maybe influenced by infiltrators from

the former regime. How is it to

deal with the wrongdoers who still walk the streets and punish the crimes that poison the national soul? They are

questions that have yet to be

fully answered in parts of

Eastern Europe and Latin

America. They continue to obsess the Chilean dramatist

Hence his masterpiece, Death and the Maiden, in

which a woman takes revenge

on the doctor she believes

oversaw her torture and rape.

But that postdates his treat-

ment of much the same theme

in Widows, which was a novel

in 1978 and a not-too-satisfactory play by 1988. Only now,

after a collaboration with the

American dramatist Tony

Kushner, followed by yet more

slog by Dorfman himself, is a definitive Widows ready to be

taken on tour by Edinburgh's

Traverse Theatre. Was it

Ariel Dorfman.

gargling sub-Piaf waif France or Luxembourg would win with a throbbing, adenoidal ballad. If it was a shaker year, Britain's entry - comprising one more micro-skirted lovelies. frantically wobbling all available

protuberances - would triumph. But the Norwegians and Irish cheated. They introduced proper melodies. Not fair! Since when was music allowed in the Eurovision? The British panicked. Two years ago, we tried to regain the initiative by going all trendy with a rap song. It was a dismal flop, naturally. The Eurovision is about as closely attuned to contemporary pop as Dame Barbara Cartland is

to sumo-wrestling. So last year we reverted to the palpitating leggy-lovely formula, and put forward a more-or-less undressed young damsel called Gina G in a breathy little number called Ooh, Aah (Just a Little Bit). (Second line: "Ooh, aah, just a little bit more". You get the drift! Mysteriously, this intellectually bracing material got och, aah, just nowhere with the hard-hearted juries of Europe.

Now we are trying a new strategy. It's called satire. Tomorrow, BBC TV viewers will vote on which song represents Britain this year. The favourite is a number called Yodel in the Canvon of Love. And if you think that title is the ultimate in daftness, you haven't heard the song itself. It's a brilliantly barmy item; quite possibly brilliant and barmy enough, in fact, to unite Europe in a single

glorious cry of "douze points!" But if Europe decides that it doesn't care for Yodel in the Canyon of Love — and let's face it, the title might lose something in translation to Estonian - then we can say that we only entered the song as a joke anyway. Perfect! We either win the big prize, or we ridicule the whole set-up. Bit like the Maastricht treaty, really,



The uniformly excellent Didier Henry (Oreste) and Diana Montague (Iphigénie) in WNO's Iphigénie en Tauride

# Brilliant beyond belief

here are evenings bination of words and notes when lightning called "opera" can yield, and guage alone of a man racked with guilt add his warm, lightning strikes an operatic performance, and one's sense of proportion falters. Welsh National Opera's revival of Gluck's Iphigenie was one such. In the aftermath. of a simply shanering performance, one was left wondering whether any other

indeed whether a greater opera has ever been written.

Moshe Leiser production, new five years ago but meticulously re-rehearsed in the after-math of their Carmen, is severe almost to a fault: grey walls for a set, monochrome

Iphigénie en Tauride

The Patrice Caurier and

pitiless human drama, and with a cast as fine as that assembled at the New Theatre, it is pitiless indeed. As before, Diana Montague is Iphigenie, and the only possible criticism is that her voice is almost too beautiful for a character in such pain.

But her command of long, unbroken Gluckian line, her poise, her use of words, are impeccable, and her singing in the great second-act Lament held the audience breathless. Peter Bronder returned as Pylade, and his delivery of Unis de la plus tendre enfance, that Liebestod for tenor, was the most expressive I have yet heard from this increasingly valuable artist.

Cardiff

is nothing to distract from the

There was one notable newcomer, the French baritone Didier Henry as Oreste. He is a superb, fearless actor. Before even opening his mouth he told you through body lan-

closely focused timbre and pungent declamation of the text, and you had an impersonation of almost unbearable intensity. Thus Oreste and Pylade arguing about which should die to save the other had the urgency of Alceste and Admète - oh pitiless Gluck at the gates of Hades. Malcolm Donnelly, also new, made an ideally donty (if less

than ideally steady) Thoas.

The American conductor Steven Sloane combined due weight of sound with a sense of "period" derived from sparing string vibrato - the best of both worlds. He never pushed (the recitatives were wonderfully spacious), but let the drama unfold naturally in all its grandeur, encouraging his soloists to sing on a thread of tone in passages of intimate personal stress, allowing uncountable seconds of silence at moments where the drama is so white-hot that even notes and words seem inadequate. Here is a conductor who understands Gluck's genius.

This revival is now going on the road, with only five more performances. It must be seen.

RODNEY MILNES

# Waiting for tears

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on Ariel Dorfman's fearful Widows

I thought so the moment the lights went up at Cambridge's Arts Theatre on a viaduct overhanging a river on whose bank some ten women in black were gathered, looking like a chorus from Aeschylus or Lorca; and I still thought so at the end. By then, Dorfman had given his answer to the question posed by the moth-ers, wives and daughters of men abducted by authorities who now ask for rapprochement and the spirit of forgiveand-forget. Before anything so chummy can occur the village's male population must be returned, alive or dead, and the killers must be punished. Nothing else will do.

The speaker is Edith Macarthur's Sofia whose father,

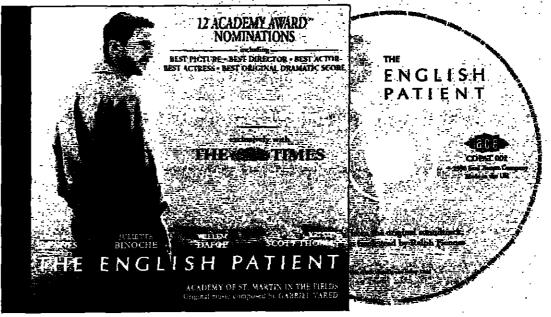
disappeared. She sits by the river grimly awaiting their return and regarded by the other women as "stubborn, bitter, a tombstone" and a potential provocation to army officers who include an unrepentantly fascist lieutenant as well as a captain who believes peace can be achieved without rancour or reparations. But then bloated, faceless, battered corpses arrive by river. Who are they? The women come en masse to claim them, and an edgy military fears it has new

troubles on its hands. Widows is not the unequivocal success Death and the Maiden was. Dorfman has not quite fulfilled his aim of

wedding the realistic and mythic, the colloquial and the larger-than-life. In some of his characterisation he sacrifices finesse to simplicity. The narrator, a Dorfman surrogate who talks of his exile, his feelings of impotence and his need to bear witness, does not add enough to justify his intermittent, mouching presence. Moreover, Ian Brown's cast, their accents ranging from demotic Scots to genteel English, don't always achieve the right intensity.

But you cannot miss the generosity of Dorfman's attempts to reach into the mind of Sean Scanlan's flummoxed Captain, as he wars with his atrocity-weary sense of decency, or the power that sometimes emerges from the embattled women. There is a moment in the first half when they become a chorus, all wailing over the latest unidentified corpse: "It's mine, it's mine, please don't let it be mine." They half-want a man to bury decently and half-want to keep their fragile hopes alive. I imagine that's how many women in Chile and Argentina feel to this day.

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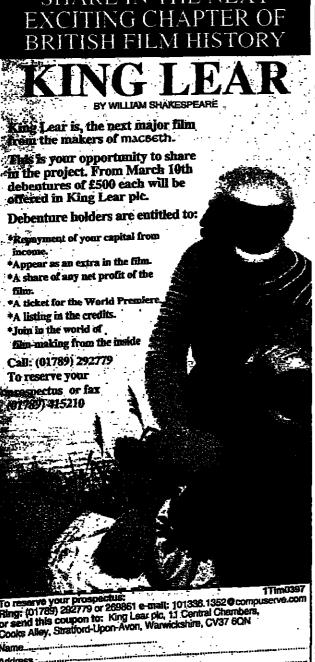
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**CHANGING TIMES** 

contemporary costumes with no differentiation between composer has understood with such blinding clarity just what that exotic and irrational com-Greeks and Scythians. There SHARE IN THE NEXT EXCITING CHAPTER OF King Lear is, the next major film Flas is your opportunity to share in the project. From March 10th debentures of £500 each will be offered in King Lear plc. Debenture holders are entitled to: \*Repayment of your capital from \*Appear as an extra in the film. A share of any net profit of the \*A ticket for the World Premier \*A listing in the credits. \*Join in the world of film-making from the inside Call: (01789) 292779 To reserve your pespectus or fax (01789) 415210 1Tim0397 To reserve your prospectus: Ring: (01789) 292779 or 269861 e-mail: 101336.1352@comp nd this coupon to: King Lear plc, 11 Central Chambers Alley, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6ON



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Sir Peter Hall says neither of the

major parties cares about the arts

hy must democracy grow us these crops of political cowards? This is not a columnist writing about the antics of the Euro-sceptics, but a line from Harley Granville Barker's Waste, a play written in 1926 and, to my mind, the wittiest and most candid exposure of politics since Shakespeare. It deals with a leader who aims to privatise the Church of England and use its revenues to build a great new system of national education. His efforts are frustrated by an avalanche of what we would now call "sleaze". He is involved with a married woman who dies undergoing an illegal abortion. In its day, the play was banned, probably more for its honesty about politicians than for its sexual awareness.

While I have been relishing the ironies of Waste in a rehearsal room, the tide of negative advertising has grown higher and higher on the billboards outside. The coming general election has been reduced to the level of playground

abuse by all the silly slogans.

And the other day I realised that I wasn't going to vote: there was no point. Under our insane electoral rules, my vote wouldn't even count as a protest. My decision will bother nobody but me; but both to what I care about

Our culture is my concern, and particularly the state of the arts. And this is not only because I earn my living making plays, operas and films. The English language is now our greatest export, and our prowess in the arts is still an international wonder

(just) in a world increas-

ingly uninterested in the

talents of the British. But what about our politicians? The Tories have quietly decimated the arts over the past 18 years in the cause of free enterprise. There has been little consolation from Labour, whose tentative and muddled policy on the arts is a deep

disappointment. It is worth recalling the original idea of subsidy: to provide money so that admission prices could be kept low. Anyone who had a taste for the arts could therefore afford to enjoy them. But "get what the market can bear" was the Arts Council's edict under Thatcher. And the consequence is that you and I now pay high taxes to fund House (which ) don't begrudge) and are then asked to pay El50 a ticket, which I do. In the 1980s the Tories launched

their sponsorship schemes: the private sector was to contribute to the arts in order to encourage the development of new and exciting projects. It sounded plausible. We live in a mixed economy, so it seemed right that the arts, too, should have mixed funding. It was also stressed that sponsorship money would never affect central government funding.

The promise was, of course, broken. By always pitching grants below the level of inflation, the real subsidy was reduced year by year. By the 1990s, some theatres had as many people working on fundraising as were on the stage.

Labour sounded a little better during this time, although it is true that at the height of the old Greater London Council, there was distrust of "centres of excellence" such as the National Theatre, because they were deemed elitist. Money was to be given instead to community centres so that everyone could become artists together. But generally speaking. Labour's heart seemed in the right place.

Meanwhile the great erosion of the arts, the giveaway of our broadcasting system and the decline in our educational standards continued. The arts in particular have been deliberately discredited during the past ten years by a carefully selected vocabulary used by Tory politicians. Artists who turned to the Arts Council for support were told they had a welfare state mentality; if they protested, they were called "whingers". And the acting profes-

sion could always be declared

brain-dead by branding them

Then came a new instrument of destruction: the National Lottery. Once again, we were told that it would never affect central subsidy. Although initially it was used only for developing or refurbishing buildings, the lottery is taking a more and more central position. I believe that if the Tories are reelected, it will be used to stop subsidy altogether. Then (because of the genuine social need) we could well be told that lottery money must be used for good works such as new hospitals instead. So the bonus

could be short-lived. Meanwhile, Tony Blair has at last pronounced on the future of the arts. He was high on their commercial value ("the creative economy"). full of promise for some postmillennium future (funded by the lattery, of course) but very low indeed on any recognition of the crisis we are in today. There is not a regional orchestra without financial troubles, nor a regional theatre

that has not had to cut back its productions, re-Sometimes duce its actors and, consequently, reduce its audiences. The regional theatre is dying fast, and this will soon have an have two effect on our great central theatre institutions and ultimately on the standard of our broadcasting. Above all, we have neglected the young who are

I think

we now

Tory

parties

Seat prices must come down: subsidy must be used again to ensure accessibility. And young people who have talent must again be properly supported by government grants through music college and drama school. Tony Blair mentioned none of this. Instead we were asked to look forward to rebuilding the decimated arts some time in the new century through the agency of a new body called Nesta, which is not a bedtime drink but the National Endowment for Science, Humanities and the Arts. again it is funded by the lottery. So there is jam tomorrow but no need of jam today.

tomorrow's audiences.

Tirginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, derided this pale Labour policy as a "luvvies' charter", demonstrating the complete contempt that the Conservative Party has for the acting profession. I sometimes think we now have two Tory parties, one moving to the right and one maintaining its position in the centre, desperately seeking election. But neither cares about the state of our culture. And they allow us to be just as indifferent about other great issues such as the funding of parties by sectional interests, our absurd electoral system, or Europe. Our national complacency is kept secure.

I live in Chelsea, as safe a seat as the Tories can muster. Our candidate is Alan Clark, so if I am feeling in an anarchic mood, he presents an amusing temptation. But I cannot vote for him. I have only voted Tory once when, in 1979, it seemed vital to curb the power of the unions. Thatcher achieved this on a minority vote and I was glad. But I never bargained for the rest of her revolution, which celebrated greed and encouraged our society to become more brutal. So I shall

Lc\_d Nolan urges young people not to prefer public protest to democratic participation

Are we a nation of

political cynics?

learnt two lessons from the setting up of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. The first was the importance of a free press, with investigative skills and resources in bringing to light matters of public concern which would otherwise remain hidden. The second was the power of the media to influence the conduct of government and of political life. There is much talk of accountability, but it sometimes overlooks the most obvious example - the availability of almost everyone in public life, from the Prime Minister downwards, to answer questions from journalists or broadcasters at

almost any hour of day or night. I am a wholehearted supporter of a free and, where necessary, investigative press. In all the countries I know, a free press goes with an independent judiciary — in which I have a vested interest but which I believe to be equally important. But there is a price to be paid.

One part of that price, excessive cynicism about public life, is reflected in the picture of suspicion and distrust of politicians and journalists which opinion polls reveal. It was also reflected in the correspondence which we received from people in all walks of life. When we asked newspaper editors whether they shared the public's distrust of politicians, they assured us that but to do something about it. This is

politicians were, on the whole, our freedom if we make proper use of it. If you think that politicians are then did the public get this false impression of politicians, unless through the newspapers? The edi-tors said that newspapers were not to blame. The politicians brought it dishonest, and possibly corrupt, go and talk to your MP or your local councillor. If you think that the judges are too soft on criminals. spend a day in the nearest Crown Court. Only then will you have something on which to form your on themselves. There is clearly particularly when a general elecown judgment. And if you still think something is wrong, do something about it. Get involved. Use tion is in sight, are apt to accuse each other of dishonesty, and the public may be forgiven for thinking

> Te have a general election coming. Yet some people V V seem weary of the cam-paign before it has started. There has been concern about the low opinion young people in particular seem to have of politicians and the political process. I have been struck by the need to have campaigns to get young people to vote, both here

your democratic rights, especially

really reached the stage where the right to vote, so hard-won by earlier generations, has now to be sold like ratent medicine show?

We therefore need to beware of cynicism. Young people are not cynical in any general sense of the word. In particular, they are not cynical about aims and ideals. But they may be cynical. like some of their elders, about politicians and political processes. I think here about the recent roads protests. Some protesters were quoted as rubbishing the right to vote and

urging the power of direct action.
They are utterly wrong to disparage the ballot box. There is a place for public protest in a democracy. But you cannot reach a sensible view about competing priorities by focusing your action on one issue and leaving all the others aside. The function of democracy is to enable civilised debate about diffi-

cult issues that cannot be reduced to simple good versus bad. Promoting direct action above democratic participation is tantamount to contempt for your fellow citizens.

But voting is just the beginning. I urge you to go beyond this and get involved in politics, meeting and questioning people in public life. either for a party or an issue. The British disease is an unking cynicism about politics. The cure is not easeful sloth, and certainly not cynicism: it is participation. Governments have a great capacity to do good, and just as great a capacity to do harm. The only way to be sure that they do the right thing is to keep an eye on them, to challenge them, to hold them to account and, above all, to take part

Public life in this country, in politics or in the media, is as attractive as ever for those who want to change the world. It is not for those who want to get rich quick. Public life is for the brave, for the tough and for those who want power, not just for its own sake but also for unselfish reasons. There are plenty of people like that in this country. After two and a half years of inspecting sleaze, I remain a democrat and an optimist.

This is an edited extract from a speech given this week to St John's College Political Society. Portsmouth.

# Rural ride among the ruins



hen William Cobbett crested the last of the Surrey hills on his approach to London. he saw before him a pestilential boil. Behind him lay a country of honest Englishmen, a land of yeomen who held fast to the old ways, to free enterprise and sound money. Ahead lay "a great wen . . . a monster called the metropolis of empire". Over the Thames basin rose a stench of decrepitude. The restless city seethed with politics, monopolists, lobbyists, immorality

and paper money.

Today the author of Rural Rides might feel a reverse sensation. The great wen is now a city set in stone. evolves, but roughl London is broadly the same physical entity it was at the war's end, and will be inherited as such by future generations. Its land use is conserved under tight laws and the property market flourishes within their constraints.

Look out on the modern country side and Cobbett would cry with anguish. He would see an anarchy of greed and politics. He would rage at the yeomen of England drenching their fields in chemicals. tearing out their hedges, polluting their streams and throwing up silos, bungalows and wind farms with no care for anything but cash. Terrified politicians bicker and shower farmers with money. When they poison the nation's food by their majoractices, they are not punished but compensated with paper money from the pockets of taxpayers.

How Cobbett would have railed. Yet even today he would have found few supporters. Criticising countrymen is still politically incorrect. You may insult the city (or business or journalism) and pass muster, but you may not insult that most delicate sensibility, farming. The BBC dare not pension off The Archers, begun as a plug for agriculture after the war. British culture was to have no finer community of souls than Amb-

#### Where Cobbett saw pleasant pastures, today we see an industrial countryside, prey to polluting profiteers

ridge. Like doctors and policemen, the farmer was awarded that professional gong, a warm-hearted

honest and hard-working. How

some truth in this. Politicians,

that the politicians ought to know.

criticism on the basis of newspaper reports. I remind myself of the danger of armchair cynicism. It is all too easy to blame others—

politicians are dishonest, judges

are too soft on crime, or the local

council is corrupt. If you feel

yourself inclined to adopt opinions

like that, I urge you not to sit back

When falling into superficial

The game is surely up. After 14 years of explaining to farmers how to poach subsidy from the taxpayer, the story editor of The Archers, Graham Harvey, has turned gamekeeper. The business has stuck in his throat. In The Killing of the Countryside, published by Cape this week, he concludes that almost farming has become a industry polluting out of control. Its raw material is 80 per cent of the landscape, which it is ruining. Nor is the ruination anything to do with market economics. The destruction is at the behest of government policy and with taxpayers' money, some £10 billion a year.

Harvey's book is a modern Grapes of Wrath. He is enraged at ministers who subsidise industrial farming because big farmers are the best lobbyists (including 32 MPs). He is appalled that taxpayers must support methods that strip land of wildlife, erode topsoil and pollute rivers. When a salmonella, BSE or E. coli scandal brings the juggernaut to a halt, he sees a Treasury rushing forward with cash to get it moving again. "We have abandoned our countryside to the grubbers and sprayers, the exploiters and the profiteers," he writes. "We have allowed them to assault our landscapes, wage war on our wildlife and abuse our farm livestock. Now finally they have

corrupted the purity of our food." I have read such diatribes before, from Marion Shoard, Oliver Rackham and numerous critics of Brussels farm policies. I have seldom read a more meticulous or devastating case for the prosecution. (Nor have I read a rejoinder that is other than self-serving.)

Harvey lists the payments that made last year the most lucrative for agriculture in recent history, as prices and subsidies soared upwards in happy tandem. Farmers derided tourists and ramblers as "vandals", yet they demanded that those same visitors pay them 53.2 billion in BSE compensation. The "anti-vandals" ripped out 11,000 miles of hedge last year alone. sprayed more tons of nitrate into the soil and denuded the nation of larks, nightingales, corn buntings and lapwings. If a motor-

way builder threatens a natteriack toad, thousands rise up in protest. But not if a farmer threatens one. Harvey reckons that the past 50 vears have seen some 90 per cent of the countryside turned over to monoculture, stripped of hundreds of species of flora and fauna.

hile Harvey's attachment to rural values and organic production can be cloying. his argument is robust. He has no truck with National Farmers' Union blackmail — "maintain subsidies or we shall behave even worse" -- nor with taxpayers giving farmers money to be rural conser-vationists. He bids them live or die as do other mortals, in a regulated marketplace. There is no reason to continue a subsidy regime meant for war. Britain, indeed all Europe, can feed itself on a quarter of its present farmed land. Paying anyone merely to exist is poor economics. Paving 12 farmers more than El million each for unwanted food, as happened last year, is indefensible. Harvey has two crystal-clear

prescriptions: stop subsidies altogether, and impose on farming planning control without compensation as exists in towns. Land prices would fall. Some marginal land would go out of production mon, but new entrepreneurs ready to exploit the new market could afford to buy land. If intensive farmers "behaved worse" to sustain yield, they should be stopped, as urban property developers are stopped. The bureaucracy that goes into paying subsidies should go into conserving a landscape that 80 per cent of non-farmers want to protect - and for which they have already paid through the nose. This is not to penalise farmers, just to treat them like everybody else.

Planning does not impoverish. As Harvey and Shoard have pointed out, the richest parts of cities are nowadays those most carefully regulated. The Duke of Westminster cannot demolish his properties in Belgravia as he could his properties in Cheshire. That does not make Belgravia less lucrative. All land in a democracy is planned", since it is in limited supply. The challenge of planning is to make the free market work with, rather than against, the grain of public opinion. The core principle is that of regulation without crippling compensation. This principle has applied to manufacturing industry since the 19th century and to urban land development since the 1930s. It should now apply to the countryside. Paying farmers not to farm is obscene.

in the dark. In 1984 the New Zealand Cabinet (true Thatcherites, as opposed to Britain's half-hearted ones) decided to end farm subsidies - and did. Land prices and food prices fell, as did public expenditure. The result, says Harvey, "is that the price of land in New Zealand now reflects the market value of its output, not the capitalised value of public support". Agriculture did not end.

The countryside is cited as the chief reason why visitors come to Britain. Among Britons it came third, after "freedom" and the National Health Service in a MORI poll on what people think is dweller who loves the countryside simply as a pleasure to behold. I admire those few farmers who care about its diversity and beauty, and who seem always to be fighting a subsidy regime intent on making them ruin it. A regulated free market could not make it worse.

very government coming to power promises to "end the lunacies of the common agricultural policy" - as now is Labour. It then piles lunacy on lunacy. These promises are empty. Each attempt to reform the CAP increases its cost. European farm policy is like the medieval Calais wool staple, a producer monopoly in restraint of trade. Its essence is to resist its own reform.

Harvey's grim message is that this policy is not just expensive. It is polluting Britain's environment while undermining the quality of life and the purity of food. If so, there has been no more grotesque abuse of public administration in modern times.

Cobbett wrote that "from a very early age, I imbibed the opinion that it was every man's duty to do all that lay in his power to leave his country as good as he found it. Today the old growler would survey the landscape, turn in his saddle and spit.

# Big shot

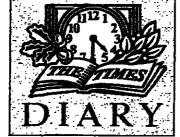
THE PRINCE OF WALES has spent £65,000 on a pair of handmade 28-bore shotguns from Asprey's in Bond Street, according to Edward Asprey, in Melbourne for the Grand Prix. The 28-bores are designed with women and children in mind, although they have become popular with Americans who like light guns for shooting quail and woodcock. They might make a handsome

confirmation present for Prince William, although giving one each to William and Harry might make for a happier Easter holidays. It can be safely assumed that Camilla Parker Bowles wouldn't mind hav-ing the shooters, either.

Whoever they are meant for, the purchase shows that the Prince retains his affection for shooting. despite all the fuss when William shot a stag and he was photo-



Prince of Wales: new shotguns



graphed fooling around with his sons and their guns over Christmas.

The standard 28-bore goes for £27,500, but the Prince has gone for additional scrolled engraving jolts, the gun equivalent of go-faster stripes on a car, bumping the guns up to £32,500 each.

At least the money will be going to a fellow royal. Asprey's is now owned by Prince Jeffrey of Brunei. the brother of the Sultan, who reputedly spent so much on knickknacks in the shop that he thought he might as well buy it.

 Less important matters were put aside at Thursday morning's Cabinet meeting as the Prime Minister began by offering collective Cabi-

net congratulations to William Hague on his engagement. As the Cabinet Secretary duly transcribed the good wishes into the minutes. Hague beamed and his cranium glowed a sugary pink.

#### **Budged out**

ONCE whipless, now just disgruntled, Nicholas Budgen. Tory MP for Wolverhampton South West, has complained to the Chief Whip about the Prime Minister. In the Commons on Tuesday. Budgen rose to ask the PM about immigration control. The Labour benches shouted him down, calling him "a

disgrace" and worse. The PM gave a terse reply, which to the casual observer looked like a slapdown. Horrifyingly, even Tony Blair rose to congratulate the PM on his answer. I would like immieration made an election issue, and an apology," Budgen growls. No 10 is unlikely to give one.

#### Bias cut

COMPLAINTS from the political parties about bias on the BBC seem to have had their effect. BBC Radio 3-3-45 8-2 63

2 has dropped an interview with Tony Benn due to air on Wednesday from a series called Salt of the Earth, in which well-known figures discuss their interpretation of the Beatitudes. Benn had chosen to talk about "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness". His tone, however, has been deemed too politically sensitive before a general election. The BBC's religious department



"I think we've stumbled across Wensleydale Man` said: "In order to avoid what could be perceived as political imbalance, the BBC took the view that this series should be amended." Benn has been replaced by Myra Hindley's former solicitor, Andrew McCooey.

 Harry, an American Harris hawk, has been employed by the Rugby Football Union to rid Twickenham of pigeons. Once a week. Harry swoops around the sta-dium scaring the other birds who roost and unburden themselves in the stands. A wily spokesman at the RFU says: "He comes on a different day each week, to keep the pigeons on their toes."

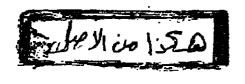
#### Stock trade

HAROLD Macmillan's granddaughter has taken to modelling. Rebecca Macmillan, 17, the daughter of the present Earl of Stockton, is currently in her last year at Marlborough. On Thursday evening, however, she turned out for a fashion show in Belgrave Square organised by the frock dealer Fiona Aitken, former girlfriend of Sir Benjamin Slade, the money behind John Redwood's leadership campaign. Slade, incidentally, is build-**3 20 3 3 3 3** 



Macmillan: walking tall

ing a £50,000, two-tiered kennel for his dogs in Somerset.
Miss Macmillan's brother, Dan.
21. joined a modelling agency after leaving Eton. His sister, however, will have to overcome her shyness if she is to show a split pelmet skirt off to its best advantage. "It was quite fun," she says, "but rather humiliating as well."



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# PAY AS YOU ERR

The pension industry must give back as quickly as it took

Daylight robbery, literally, has been the fate of at least 600,000 people in the past ten years or so. Yet what they suffered will never be recorded in the crime statistics. Had the actions of large parts of the private pension industry in Britain during the past decade been openly unlawful there would have been a national outcry. As it is, the theoretically legal and technical nature of their plight has largely hidden the story from public view.

It is difficult to understate the scale of the pension scandal of the 1980s. For good reasons a degree of deregulation was introduced into what had previously been a distinctly uncompetitive area. The management of some of Britain's best-known and most important financial institutions responded by unleashing an army of salesmen onto the public. These task forces, whose salaries were largely dependent on commissions, persuaded hundreds of thousands of people to abandon very sound company pension schemes or the Serps system - both of which had a guaranteed benefit package - in favour of personal pension schemes of dubious relative value.

That the plans being sold were unattractive is not a matter of conflicting opinion. alternative interpretation, or even of variable economic assumptions. To those who understood the detail they were selfevidently of inferior value. The sole purpose both of the snake-oil salesmen and the senior executives who employed them was to maximise their own financial standing at considerable cost to their "clients". Their victims were all too frequently the poorly paid and financially innocent who believed, and were entitled to believe, on the basis of what they were told, that their contributions would provide a substantial sum in future years. In practice, exorbitant fees and charges swallowed a huge proportion of their investment.

When the full scale of this outrage became evident, the predictable happened. Large numbers of salesmen were dismissed but the overwhelming majority of the management who had inspired, hired, and ultimately fired them, kept their own posts and company pension plans. Almost seven years ago, when the affair was exposed, promises were made by those responsible that the whole matter would be investigated and those who suffered compensated. Those pledges have proved about as reliable as the original policies.

For all the huffing and puffing from the Securities and Investments Board only a few of those affected have either been placed back into the orginal programmes from which they were duped or been awarded a reciprocal cash settlement. The trade lobby insists that it would like to move faster but that these matters are extremely complicated. The same firms were able to move quickly enough when they saw the opportunity to remove cash from these customers. The regulator should demand a similar level of speed when it comes to restoring it. Sir Andrew Large has been given three weeks by Angela Knight, junior Treasury Minister, to effect this. He should regard it as a matter of personal honour that he does so.

This week one of the most imaginative ideas for pension provision in a century has been placed by Peter Lilley before the British public. It is painful to admit that the best objection to it is not the motives of the politicians concerned, nor the small print beneath the superstructure, but whether the private pension industry is worthy of the trust implicit. That should be a matter of deeper shame for the companies concerned. Until the ill deeds of the past decade are properly dealt with, little faith can be placed in either industry or regulator by the pensioners of the future.

#### **COUNTRY CONSENSUS**

Campaigners seek to hunt, shoot and stand together

The hunting horn is giving forth an uncertain sound. The proposed merger of the Countryside Movement, the Countryside Business Group and the British Field Sports Society (BFSS) is intended to give supporters of traditional country pursuits a more coherent campaigning voice. With Labour committed to ending hunting on government land, and likely to give the Commons. the opportunity to ban the sport outright, defenders of rural tradition will need to show solidarity. Unfortunately, the brief history of the Countryside Movement, and the worries around its proposed merger, iggest that lessons still need to be learnt by those who speak for rural Britain.

The last merger which involved the Countryside Movement's chairman. Sir David Steel, involved a traditional outfit, his Liberal Party, swallow an upstart rival, the SDP. This time the dynamic is the same, but the roles are reversed. The Countryside Movement was launched to break the mould of rural politics by uniting defenders of the natural environment and social ecology. It sought, wisely, to connect the fortunes and interests of rural workers, traditional tradespeople, sportsmen, residents and sensitive environmentalists. Sadly, as Sir David concedes, his Movement did not attract the funds or momentum it hoped for and now it is to join forces with the, much older, BFSS.

As with the merger of Liberals and SDP, the fusion has also created splits. The BFSS's main energies have been devoted to defending hunting and there are tensions between horse and hound on one side, and rod and gun on the other. The National Federation of Anglers' president, who sits on the board of the Countryside Movement, will not join the merged body and neither will the British Association for Shooting and Conservation. Both fear that they will be tarnished by too close a link with the hunting lobby. They believe that Labour has hunters in its sights and do not want to suffer collateral damage.

Their concerns are understandable, if narrow. Given the popularity of fishing it seems unlikely that Labour would move against the sport. Shooting is a slightly different matter. Although it does not attract the visceral opposition of animal rights activists in the same way as hunting, the zeal with which Labour has argued for a total ban on handguns suggests a future atrocity committed with a shotgun or rifle could bring even tighter restrictions on gun use.

It is not, however, on a line calculation of lobbying advantage that the future health of rural traditions will depend. All those who know and enjoy the real countryside, whether in pink, tweed, denim or waders, should seek to ensure they work together; their sympathies are stronger than their differences. With politics increasingly dominated by urban professionals and Labour still overwhelmingly the party of cities and suburbs, the concerns of rural Britain need to be articulated effectively. Hunters, fishers and shooters as well as saddlers, grooms and others coexist in a delicate social ecology. It is in no conservationist's interest to see it so rudely upset.

A ban on hunting would adversely affect the quality of country life for most rural residents. It would deprive many of employment as well as enjoyment and rob communities of a widely-appreciated and unsnobbish social focus. Of course, some hunt supporters are guilty of an almost feral attachment to the chase; but a genuinely liberal temperament should tolerate the settled habits of a significant minority. Hunting may need reform, but it also needs friends if the familiar contours of the countryside are not to disappear.

#### **SHINING EXAMPLE**

A grateful, graceful pianist — unless you are a US critic

The Australian film Shine has captivated audiences around the world because of its inspirational message. The triumph of the spirit over mental breakdown, the redeeming power of love and the exhilaration of music reverberate in all discussion afterwards. Little wonder that public curiosity about David Helfgott, the pianist whose story is told in the film, is insatiable or that audiences are flocking to hear the playing of a man whose early promise was so blighted.

Responding to this crescendo of interest, Mr Helfgott has now begun a concert tour of the US to rapturous acclaim by the public. But the critics have been vituperative. In savage reviews that smack of spite, they have attacked his performance as shapeless and incoherent, described his first concert as a painful and disturbing experience and accused him of playing without phrasing, form, accuracy or emotional content.

Their wounding remarks have been prompted, many believe, by pique that the public's reaction has been dictated not by the mirthless critics' Olympian verdicts but by the populist influence of film - and a non-American one at that. These sour tantrums have, in turn, infuriated American audiences whose standing ovations were a tribute as much to Mr Helfgott's return from the brink of madness as to his music.

Has American criticism become so devoid of human warmth, so isolated in its purist aesthetic that it is blind to the strivings and

achievements that inspire people? Such questions are often put to critics - not least by performers, artists and writers. They reply that their job is not to offer subjective judgments on personality or be swayed by an artist's popularity but to evaluate the worth of the oeuvre put before the public. They would deny the accusation that they are particularly harsh on those whose acclaim is immediate. But some critics, having seen dozens of promising performers whose potential is ignored, can be embittered that others, often less talented, become stars thanks to publicity or money.

With Mr Helfgott, they miss the point. Mental breakdown was not a publicity stunt, nor was his return to the concert hall a claim to be a great performer. He is a man who has not fully escaped the terrors of mental instability but who can keep the demons at bay through music. The link between the two is, sadly, common: John Ogdon was engaged in a lifelong struggle against mental imbalance; Van Cliburn, a child prodigy, became a recluse at the height of his fame; and Horowitz in his long career, was as racked in his mind as he was gifted in his fingers. Mr Helfgott, with the loving support of his wife and friends, has achieved a balance that is an inspiration in life, as in the film, to others less gifted but equally afflicted. His reply to the critics is as devastating as it is serene: "Mustn't be so serioso. It's all a game. Must be grateful."

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

#### High indignation on Hogg tidings

From Dr R. J. Lamden

Sir, Messrs Hogg, Soames and the Earl Howe might do well to bear in mind the behaviour of Sir Thomas Dugdale, at one time Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

His was not a matter involving either the health of the general population or of the Armed Forces. Rather it concerned Crichel Down, a piece of farmland which had been compulsorily purchased by his ministry, and which had not been returned to its former owner when the ministry had fin-

A minor matter one might suppose, which had been badly mishandled by the Civil Service, and of which Sir Thomas had no knowledge. Nonetheless on July 19, 1954 (report, July 21, 1954), he wrote to his Prime Minister: In view of the criticisms which have been levelled at the handling of the Crichel Down case, for which as Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries I accept responsibility. I have come to the conclusion that I must ask you to submit my resignation to the Queen.

Have the greatly inflated salaries now paid to ministers led to the abolition of the concept of ministerial responsibility?

Yours etc. R. J. LAMDEN. 7 Weald Rise, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire.

From Lieutenant-Colonel T. Rigby, Royal Signals (retd)

Sir, is it not surprising that the con-clusions of a report, rather than plain commonsense, are needed to convince those responsible for standards of animals entering abattoirs that the animals should be clean?

Yours faithfully. T. RIGBY, Fairfield House, Millbrook Way. Orleton, Ludlow, Shropshire.

From Dr Hugh Saxton

Sir, Is it not now clear that there is an urgent need for a Freedom of Information Act so that ministers can have access to information otherwise known only to their civil servants?

Yours faithfully, H. M. SAXTON, Ash House, Houghton Road, Stockbridge, Hampshire. March 7.

#### Test ban treaty

From the Chair of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament

Sir, On Monday the Government mitted in a written answer that the legislation promised in the Queen's Speech to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (report, October 24, 1996) will not now be introduced in this parliamentary session.

There was no explanation and no apology. A ratification Bill would be unopposed and take up the minimum of parliamentary time. Ratification is not an unknown process. Nor was the need for such a Bill unexpected.

It is important that Britain, as a nuclear weapons state, is seen to act with some sense of urgency. This country's record on nuclear disarmament issues continues to be one of grudging obstruction. What has caused this latest delay?

Yours faithfully DAVE KNIGHT. Chair, CND. 162 Holloway Road, N7. March b.

#### **Bank and Parliament**

From Viscount Exmouth

Sir. Mr Leolin Price's articulate assessment of the role of an independent Bank of England or UK central bank (letter March 3) fails to observe that such a body would, under the terms of the Maastricht treaty, be answerable to the European central bank in Frankfurt, and likewise our Parliament would be answerable to the European Parliament, thereby losing all contact with their electors.

Surely Mr Price must have identified numerous directives emanating from Brussels which are "not compaiible with our constitutional arrange-

Yours faithfully. PAUL EXMOUTH. House of Lords.

#### Export earnings

From Mr Bill Kearns

Sir, There is always a danger that a quoted statistic becomes an accepted fact. Before this happens can we have some evidence for the National Audit Office's suggestion (report, March 4) that every pound spent on trade promotion in the Far East last year earned £78 in exports. I spent more than 20 years in the Diplomatic Service, most of the time doing commercial work, and I do not believe the statistic.

There is a worthwhile role for diplomats to provide assistance to exporters but the case for commercial diplomacy being adequately funded is not enhanced by the use of such silly statistics.

Yours etc. BILL KEARNS. II Court Royal Mews. Northlands Road, Southampton.

#### Albania's needs in present crisis

From Miss Primrose Peacock

Sir. Whilst agreeing wholeheartedly with your leader today, "Albania aflame", it is worth pointing out that Alhania has had numerous non-governmental friends during the past six

Currently over 90 British charities, including some household names, are running Albanian projects in addition to those organised by academic institutions, cultural and religious bodies, etc. A few businesses have made valiant efforts to establish an Albanian However, a major stumbling block

has been official British indifference. bureaucratic delay and the wastage of scarce resources on window dressing. A sharp contrast to the 1930s when Britain played a leading role in assisting Albania, and even trained the gendarmerie. If only a small fraction of the fund-

ing and expertise that has been poured into former Yugoslavia since 1991 had been made available to the Albanians, who are generally pro-British. we might not now be seeing the current tragedy.

Yours sincerely, PRIMROSE PEACOCK (Editor. Besa, for friends of Albania), PO Box 155, Taunton TA2 8YW.

From Mr Johnathan Sunley

Sir. I cannot agree with the picture you paint of Albanian President Sali Berisha cracking down in neo-Stalin-ist fashion on his country's news media (leading article, "Albania's Press", March 5).

Since the declaration of a state of emergency at the weekend, it is true that the only newspaper to have ap-peared daily is the one closest to the ruling Democratic Party. Still, other papers which might be less friendly towards the Government but which are prepared nonetheless to carry official statements are not prevented from being published. This is attested by the regular appearance of the English-language Albanian Daily News, the predominantly pro-rebel articles of which are eagerly awaited by the international correspondents present in Tirana, whose own newspapers continue to arrive in the country's capital

ه يخذا من الإجارية

As for interruptions to the broadcasting of electronic media, it is again true that both Euronews and the BBC Albanian Service were briefly taken off the air before being restored. The majority of Albanians we have talked to, however, have expressed bewilderment at the tendentious reporting of these two organisations. Euronews, for example, recently claimed that Albanians had been reduced to selling blood to make up for their pyramid scheme losses.

There is no comparison between the measures being taken by today's armed forces or secret police with those of their communist-era counterparts, Albania's then dictator, Enver Hoxha, was unable to tolerate private cars or even shoulder-length hair — let alone alternative political parties and an elected partiament

JOHNATHAN SUNLEY, British Helsinki Human Rights Group, c/o Hotel Miniri, Tirana. March 6.

From the Executive Director of Children's Aid Direct

Sir, The collapse of civil order in the south of Albania has much deeper causes than the pyramid scandals which have acted as the trigger. The democratic system, elections, banking and indeed leadership are in a fledgeling state. The economy is artificial and both the Government and people are challenged with tasks well beyond their resources and experience. What Albania needs is investment in knowhow, education and social welfare. and only we can offer this.

Ironically we are even now staring at an opportunity rather than a threat. but one that calls for a direct response in investment, aid, skills and exper-

Yours faithfully, DAVID H. W. GRUBB, Executive Director, Children's Aid Direct. 82 Caversham Road, Reading, Berkshire.

#### Real scale of child prostitution

From Mr Barry Sheerman, MP for Huddersfield (Labour)

Sir, I was surprised to read in your report of March 3, the view of a former president of the Association of Directors of Social Services that charities were exaggerating the incidence of child prostitution in this country

As a parliamentarian who has been attempting for some time to draw attention to what appears to be a serious problem involving the manipulation, control and abuse of children, I find Mr SeQueiras's views very much at odds with information I have gathered from the police, university researchers and grassroots social workers.

I have no doubt that there is a serious matter for concern here, which affects, at the very least, most of our large cities. Surely what is now needed is a proper evaluation, to be carried

out by the police, social services and the voluntary sector, as to the precise extent of the problem, speedily followed by appropriate steps to protect children from this particularly unpleasant form of child sexual abuse.

Some directors of social work may otest, but there is not a little ev dence to suggest that too few of them have either recognised the problem or organised their service to do something constructive about it.

It is my belief that there is a very significant number of children being exploited and abused in this way by unscrupulous individuals and that the voluntary sector should be congratulated on conducting serious work in

Yours faithfully BARRY SHEERMAN. House of Commons. March 3.

#### Vandals at work

From the Rector of St Peter's,

Sir. The desecration of the tomb of Sir John Soane (report and photograph, March 5) should cause little surprise As rector of one of his two church buildings which remain in use as parish churches (the other being St John's, Bethnal Green), we are fighting a losing battle against vandals.

In the last year we have been forced to close the outer doors of our building, which have formerly been open to allow people to view the inside of the church through the glass interior doors. Casual break-ins produced little theft but much damage. Closing the doors has stopped entry, but now they, whoever they are, have started on the exterior. Extensive graffiti have appeared on the stonework of the north side.

In the case of the tomb the cause of the desecration was theft; here in Walworth, it appears simply to be destruction or despoliation of a building clearly held of little account by the vandals concerned.

On your front page today (later editions) the headline "Tory MP savages friend and foe" illustrates the casual verbal damage which seems acceptable when we disagree with something, or hold it in low esteem. I wonder if there is a link between the two?

Yours faithfully. GORDON MURRAY. The Rectory, Liverpool Grove, SE17. March 5.

#### Surname usage

From Sir Anthony Kershaw

Sir. In the matter of how one should address other British men (letters, February 8. 18, 20, 22, 25. March 3) the old practice was clear. One's social equals, and fellow

members of a closed society such as the Bar, House of Commons, gentlemen's clubs, etc. one addressed by surname, and one did not shake hands. Members of the working class, eg. gardeners, butlers, porters, etc -also by surname.

Others were "Mr" in speech, "Esq" in writing, and one always shook hands. All that is stuff and nonsense today.

Everyone is "Esq". Esquire used to be a rank; only those whose father held the rank of Major or equivalent were entitled to use it. But woe betide the MP who uses plain "Mr" when writing to constituents.

Nowadays the computer has reduced the whole thing to total chaos anyway.

I beg to remain, \$ir, Your obedient servant, ANTHONY KERSHAW (Conservative MP for Stroud, 1955-87), West Barn, Didmarton, Badminton, Gloucestershire. March 4.

From Mr T. F. Nolf

Sir, I am indebted to Mr Basil Greenhill for pointing out (letter, March 3) that, in his book, the explorer Frederik Hjalmar Johansen makes special mention of his companion Fridtjof Nansen's proposal, made after they had spent over nine months on the Arctic ice in what can only be described as very close company, that they should perhaps relax formalities and begin to say "thou" instead of "you".

Mr Greenhill helpfully supplied the date - December 31, 1895 - and this made it easy to check what Nansen himself made of it. I am disappointed to have to report that in his own book, Farthest North (George Newnes, 1898), Dr Nansen does not mention the occasion; he continues to refer to his companion as "Johansen" right up to the end of the voyage. Quite amazing, seeing that they shared a double sleeping bag.

Yours faithfully. 6d Dunbar Street, Old Aberdeen.

Weekend Money letters, page 38

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

#### Bishop's decision to marry divorcée

From the Reverend J. C. Brooks

Sir. In your report (March 4) of the Bishop of Birmingham's controversial intention to marry a divorcee, the lady's first husband is referred to as a "retired GP". Retired or not from medicine, he is also an Anglican priest, living in the Diocese of Birmingham, who has not remarried.

Quite apart from the desirability, or otherwise, of the Bishop's action from the point of view of ecclesiastical discipline (the Reverend de Berry's letter, March 5), a further question should perhaps be considered - how does this action affect the relationship of the Bishop with one of his priests who is the first husband of his intended

Yours faithfully, JOHN BROOKS, Milbanke, 3 Mill Road, Deal, Kent. March 5.

From the Vicar of Houghton Regis

Sir, Mr Steve Jenkins, apparently a spokesman for the Church of England" (report, March 4), tells us that there is nothing in canon law to prevent the proposed remarriage be-tween the Lord Bishop of Birmingham and a lady whose first marriage has had its legal form dissolved at civil law but whose husband is still

But that is to read canon law as though it were like secular coercive regulation.

The point is surely that the Lord Bishop, at his consecration, declared that he would "strive to fashion his own life and that of his household according to the way of Christ. The Church of England still accepts the Western Catholic understanding that the marriage bond can be dissolved only upon death of one of the parties (not when people claim that the mar-riage has "died") and this is reflected in her canon law.

To sidestep canon law by "marrying" in a register office is not quite what the flock would hope for from one of Christ's undershepherds, but increasingly in these troublous days, precisely what we come to expect.

Yours faithfully, JONATHAN REDVERS HARRIS, The Vicarage, Houghton Regis, Bedfordshire.

March 4.

#### Mops ahoy

From Professor Alec Eden

Sir, It was with considerable interest at I read of the six Scottish ladies who went to sea with the destroyer HMS Newcastle "to carry out general duties in the galley and dining hall" (report, March 5).

When I served in 1952 as an Ordinary Seaman in the last HMS Newcastle, a City-class cruiser in the Korean War, we did not have cleaning ladies. Neither did we have a dining hall. We ate, slept, relaxed and did almost everything else in the same somewhat confined space.

It was called - not inappropriately — the mess deck.

Yours faithfully. ALEC EDEN, The Thatched House, Mead Road, Torquay, Devon. March 5.

#### High table

From Mr Allen Scott

Sir, Philip Howard's "Word-watching" (March 4) gives the definition of Fu-Fu as a kind of dough made out of plantains. My understanding was that Fu-Fu was made from flour derived from corn or cassava, or more commonly from boiled and pounded yam, and was normally the partner of

As long-time "Coasters", resident in Nigeria, we served it with groundnut stew and tested the quality of the Fu-Fu by tossing a small sample in the air to the ceiling.

If it stuck to the ceiling it passed the

test and was fit to eat. Yours faithfully, ALLEN SCOTT Christmas Pie House Green Lane East, Christmas Pie, Nr Guildford, Surrey.

#### All over the place

From Mr Harry Ganz

Sir, I must congratulate the Post Office on its most recent attempts to make a delivery. Last October, I posted a large packet (clearly labelled) to the correct address in Mayfair, W.I., stamped with a 70p stamp.

The packet never arrived, because the Post Office, in its wisdom, took W.I. to be the West Indies. On its arrival in the West Indies, the postal authorities there discovered that there was no such place as Mayfair, and promptly redispatched it to Wiscon-

My packet, rather the worse for wear, was returned to me yesterday by the Post Office, still unable to find Maylair, W.I.

Yours faithfully, HARRY GANŽ, The Garden Pharmacy, 119 Long Acre, WC2. March 6.



#### **COURT CIRCULAR**

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 7: His Excellency Mr Norman Penke was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the Republic of Latvia to the Court of St James's.

Mrs Penke was also received by

Her Majesty. Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and ealth Affairs) was present. The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature — WWF International, today carried out a field visit with the Whale and Dolphin Society of Oman.

This evening His Royal Highness was received at the Palace by Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al-Said. Sultan of March 7: The Duke of York, Presi-March 7: The Duke to tork, Ples-dent, this evening attended the Royal Household Golf Society Annual Din-ner at Twickenham Rugby Football Ground, Middleset.

March 7: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation, this morning attended a meeting with an of the Congressiona Award before attending a Duke of Edinburgh's Award World Fellow-ship Luncheon at the Union Club,

#### Royal engagements

TODAY: The Princess Royal, as President of Save the Children Fund, will attend the West Midlands appeal gala dinner and dance at the International Convention Centre, Birmingham, at 7.15.

#### Roy Bennett

A memorial service for Roy Grissell Bennett CMG. TD. will be held at St James's Church, Piccadilly on Tuesday, March 18. 1997 at 2.30pm.

#### Mr L.P. Dutton

A Memorial Service for the life of Mr L.P. Dutton. MA. MBE, will be held in Giggleswick School Chapel on Saturday, March 22, 1997, at 2.30pm.

# This afternoon His Royal Highness travelled to Lewisburg, West Vir-ginia, and this evening attended a Duke of Edinburgh's Award World Fellowship Dinner at the Greenbrier Hotel, White Sulphur Springs, West Wigninia

March 7: The Princess Royal this morning opened the Midlands Engineering Centre, Cambridge Street, Birtaingham, for the Institution of Electrical Engineers, and was re-crived by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon opened the new Design and Engineering Centre at the Rover Group Research Centre, Gaydon, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Licutenant of Warwickshire (Mr Martin Dunnel.

ST JAMES'S PALACE March 7: The Prince of Wales this morning arrived at Royal Air Force Brize Norton from Saudi Arabia. Lieutenant-Commander John La-very RN and Miss Sandy Henney

YORK HOUSE YORK HOUSE.

March 7: The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal Institution of Great Britain, this evening attended a Discourse given by Professor Robin Clark, at Albernarle Street, London

#### School news

Harrow School 1997 Scholarships The following awards have been

made: Scholarships: M.C. Lesslie (Caldicott); M.H. Lawrence (Caldicott); Y.C.E. Ngai (Caldicott); J. Friedman (Papplewick). Exhibitions: A.H.W. Crawley (Caldicott); J.H.W. Stewart (Tower House).

House).

Music Scholarships: J.G.R.
Dashwood (Westbourne House):
M.H. Lawrence (Caldicott): B.W.E.
Morgan (Hazlegrove House): T.B.
Rogers (Lockers Park): J. Friedman
(Papplewick).

Music Ethibitions: A.M. Lea-Cox (SI
John's College, South Africa): B.W.
Kilpatrick (Westbourne House).

Art Scholarship: S. Datta (The Hall).

Riddlesworth Hall School Mr David Dean, currently at Le Rosey, Switzerland, will take up his appointment as Head of Riddlesworth Hall School in

September 1997.

#### Weekend birthdays

Christopher Airy, royal equerry, 63; Mr Nicolas Bevan, Speaker's Secretary, 55; Mr Gyles Brandreth, MP, 49; Sir Julian Bullard, dip-lomat, 69; Professor Sir Donald Campbell, former president, Royal College of Physicians and Sur-geons of Glasgow, 67; Sir Anthony Caro, sculptor, 73; Mr Phil Ed-monds, cricketer, 46; Mr Michael Grade, chief executive, Channel 4. 54: the Hon Douglas Hurd, CH. MP. 67; Mr Michael Inchbald, designer, 77; Miss Ann Jenner, ballerina, 53; Mr Irek Mukhamedov, ballet dancer, 37; Miss Lyon Pedorava actuses, 54: Miss Lynn Redgrave, actress, 54; Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi, 49; Miss Lynn Seymour, ballerina, 58; Professor S.K. Smith. obstetrician and gynaecologist, 46: Professor Norman Stone, modern historian, 56; the Ven P.R. Turner, Chaplain-in-Chief, RAF, SS; Mr John Ward, MP, 72; Mr David Wilkie, swimmer, 43.

Dinners

City University

Sir John Leahy, Pro-Chancellor of

the City University, presided at a convocation dinner held last night

at the university. Mr Stuart Devlin. Prime Warden of the

Goldsmiths' Company, was the guest speaker. The Vice-Chan-

cellor and Mrs Franklin and Mr

Robert W. Chappell, chairman of

Judge Giles Rooke, QC. Residing Judge, Canterbury, was the guest of honour at a dinner of the Kent

Temple Society held last night at The Chaucer Hotel, Canterbury.

Mr Nigel J. Mifsud, president, and

Mr Matthew Hinxman, treasurer,

mr Matmew Hindman, deastler, presided. Brigadier C. Wright, Under Treasurer of the Middle Temple. Mr Geoffrey Nice. QC. Mr Per Laleng and Miss Charlotte

Bircher were among the guests.

Baroness Chalker of Wallasey.

Minister for Overseas Dev-elopment, delivered the Dr Britton

ecture to the Bristol branch of the

English-Speaking last night at Clifton College Preparatory

School. Mr Tony Williams, Chair-

man of the Bristol branch, intro-

duced the speaker and Mrs Valerie

Mitchell, Director of the ESU.

**English-Speaking Union** 

Lecture

convocation, attended.

Kent Temple Society

TODAY: Major-General Sir

TOMORROW: Air Marshal Sir Roger Austin. 57; Mr Bill Beau-mont, sports broadcaster and



Robert Tear, the tenor, is 58 today

writer, 45; Mr Andrew Bennett, MP, 58; Dr M.G. Brock, former warden, St George's House, Windsor Castle, 77; M André Courreges, fashion designer, 74; Mr Herbert Coutts, Head of Museums and Galleries, City of Edinburgh Council, 53; the Hop Sir Roualeyn

#### tice of Appeal, and his twin brother Lord Thurkow, 85; Mr Bobby Fischer, chess player, 54; Mr John Golding, trade unionist, 66; Major-General J.P. Groom, former director-general, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, 68: Mr Neil Hamilton, MP, 48: Professor Sir Donald Harrison, laryngologist and otologist, 72; Dr T.L. Johnston, former Principal and Vice-Chan-cellor, Heriox-Watt University, 70: General Sir Frank King, 78: Sir Norman Lindop, former Principal, British School of Osteopathy, 76; Mr R.G. Martin, company chairman, 76; Mr David Matthews, composer, 54; Sir Ronald Melville, civil servant, 85; Sir Nicholas Monck, civil servant, 62: Professor K.E. Robinson, former Vice-Chan-cellor, Hong Kong University, 83; Mr Howard Shelley, concert pianist and conductor, 47: the Right Rev James Simpson, former Moderator, General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 63; Professor Sir David Weatherall, FRS. haematologist, 64; Mr David Willetts, MP, 41.

Cumming-Bruce, former Lord Jus-

#### Anniversaries

TODAY BIRTHS: Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach. composer, Weimar. Germany, 1714: Richard Howe. Fari Howe admiral London 172to Kenneth Grahame, author of The Wind in the Willows, Edinburgh. 1859: Frederic William Goudy, typographer, Bloomington, Illi-

DEATHS: King William III, reigned with Mary II 1689-94, then alone to 1702. London, 1702: Abraham Darby, iron founder, Worces-ter, 1717: Hector Berlioz, composer, Paris, 1869; Henry Ward Beecher, preacher, Brookline, Massachusetts, 1887; John Bricsson, pioneer of the screw propeller, New York, 1889; Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin, airship constructor. Charlottenburg. Germany, 1917; Sir Thomas Beecham, conductor, London, 1961; ; Harold Lloyd, film com-edian, Beverly Hills, 1971; Richard Austen Butler, politician, Great Yeldham. Essex. 1982; Sir William Walton, composer, Ischia, 1983.

The February revolution began in Russia (ending on March 14), these dates being in the New Style Gregorian calendar, 1917. American Marines landed in Viet-An artificial heart was used for the

until 1714), 1702.

Accession of Queen Anne (reigned

first time on a 41-year-old man which kept him alive for 80 minutes, 1952.

TOMORROW

BIRTHS: Amerigo Vespucci, ex-plorer, Florence, 1451; William Cobbett, essayist and politician, Farnham. Surrey, 1763; Ernest Bevin, Foreign Secretary 1945-51. Winsford, Somerset, 1881: Vyacheslav Molotov, statesman, Kukaida, Vyatka, 1890; Victoria Sackville-West, novelist and biographer, Knole Castle, Kent, 1892. Samuel Barber, composer, West Chester, Pennsylvania, 1910; Yuri Gagarin, first astronaut to orbit the Earth 1961. Smolensk, 1934. **DEATHS: David Rizzio, favourite** of Mary Queen of Scots, mur-dered, Edinburgh, 1566: Jules Mazarin, cardinal and statesman. Vincennes, France, 1661; Arnold Toynbee, social philosopher, London, 1883: William I, German Emperor 1871-88, Berlin, 1888. Napoleon Bonaparte married Jo-sephine de Beauharnais, 1796.

The French Foreign Legion, with its headquarters in Algeria. was founded, 1831. Accession of Frederick III. German Emperor, 1888. British police deported Archbishop Makarios from Cyprus to the Seychelles for fostering terrorism.

#### Service dinners

Royal Marines
Major-General John Hardy presided at the annual dinner of the
Royal Marines Officers' Dinner
Club held last night at Lincoln's
Drake Major-Inn. Sir Maurice Drake, Majur-General Dennis Shaw, the Rev

David Burgess and Captain Mal-colm Carver, RN, were among the guests. " The Red Rose Chib
Officers of the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomany dined out Major General Sir Michael Paimer.

General Sir Michael Paimer, KCVO, and held their annual Red Rose Dinner on Friday at Kearsley House, Wigan. Brigadier E.C.W. Morrison, Honorary Colonel, presided. Major General J.P.W. Friedberger, Colonel P.A. Clare and representatives of the Lancashire Lieutenancy, the Duchy of Lancaster, HMS Lancaster, the King's Royal Hussars, the Royal Mercian and Lancastrian Yeo-Mercian and Lancastrian Yeo-manry and the Queen's Lan-cashire Regiment were among those present.

RAF St Athan Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison, Air 'Afficer Commanding-in-Chief Logistics Command. and Lady Allison were the guests of honour at the St David's Day (March I) ladies guest night held last night at RAF St Athan. Wing Commander John Sneller presided. Group Captain the Rev I. Thomas, Logistics Command Chaplain, was the guest speaker. Air Commodore Peter Soul, Air Officer Wales, and Mrs Scott were

Not MHL (RADIAF) Not MHU (RAMA)

Group Captain L. Robins presided
at a reunion dinner of past and
present officers of Not Maritime
Headquarters Unit (Royal Auxiliary Air Force) and their ladies held last night at Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea Air Com-modore the Hon Sir Peter Vanneck, Group Captain P. Harris, Wing Commander E. Par-tridge and Major A. Blackburn. RAMC (V), were among the guests. University of Birmingham Air

Squadron Vice-Admiral I.D.G. Garnen, Deputy Supreme Affied Com-mander Atlantic, Air Vice-Marshal J.H. Thompson, Commandant RAF College Cranwell, and Profes-sor D. Walton, of Birmingham University, were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the University of Birmingham Air Squadron held last night at RAF Cosford. Squadron Leader K.S. Crombie. Commanding Officer.

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr W.S. Croom-Jol and Miss D. Roberts

The engagement is announced between William, younger son of the late Mr and Mrs Henry Croom-Johnson, of Hammer-smith London, and Deborah, younger daughter of the late Mr Edward Roberts and of Mrs Ellen Roberts, of Burgess Hill, Sussex, Squadron Leader J.N. Dart and Miss C.L. Mallinson

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs R. Dart, of Huntingdon, and Clare, daughter of the late Mr B. Mallinson and of Mrs S. Mallinson, of Torquay.

Mr A.J. Fairclough and Miss A. Hartmann The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs John Fairclough, of

Copthorne, West Sussex, and Aleese, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles B. Hartmann, of Palm Reach, Florida. Captain N.F. Fanc and Miss L.K.E. Schroder

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of the late Mr Michael Fane and of Mrs Michael Fane, of Blackdown, Hampshire, and Leonie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Bruno Schroder, of London W8.

Mr A.R.W. Hughes and Miss N.J. Drake-Brockman The engagement is announced hetween Andrew, son of Lieuten-ant Colonel O.W. Hughes, retd, and Mrs Hughes, of Putney, London, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gervase Drake-Brockman, of Hundon, Suffolk. Mr D.M. Jackson and Miss R.C. Hughes

The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Colin Jackson, of Ringmer, East Sussex, and Roslyn Christina, only daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Glyn Hughes, of Saltdean, Brighton, East Sussex, Mr I.A. Reynolds

and Miss R.M. Muspratt The engagement is announced between lan, son of Mr and Mrs Austin Reynolds, of Dublin, Ireland, and Rosalind, daughter of Mr David Muspratt and the late Mrs Rosemary Muspran, of Alresford, Hampshire.

Mr LJ. Kennedy and Miss R.E.M. Carson The engagement is announced between Lance, only son of Mr and Mrs Joseph Kennedy, of Harare, Zimbabwe, and Robyn, daughter of Dr and Mrs Brian Carson, of Learnington Spa, Warwickshire.

Mr S.A. Kornberg and Miss T.M. Goh and Miss T.M. Gen
The engagement is announced
between Simon, younger son of
Professor Sir Hans Kornberg,
FRS, of Cambridge, England, and
Boston, USA, and of the late Lady (Monica) Kornberg, and Tricia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jimmy

Goh, of Bukit Panjang, Singapore. Mr A.D.S. Linle and Miss K.L. Dawson The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mrs Elsa Lirde, of Old Lenton, Nottingham, and Kelly younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Derek J. Dawson, of Beverly Hills. California.

Mr J.D. Mant and Miss C.E. Jackson The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr. David Mant, of Symonds Yat, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Barbara Herring, of Co Kildare, Ireland, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stuart Jackson, of Alhampton, Somerset. Mr M.A. Rickard

and Miss C.L. Major The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs John Rickard, of Canterbury. Kent, and Claire, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Major, of Cherry Hinton, Cambridgeshire.

Mr D.J. Saunders and Miss R.E.W. Brinton The engagement is announced between Duncan, son of Lieutenant Colonel David Saunders, retd. and Mrs Saunders, of Kidmore End, Berkshire, and Robyn.

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daughter of Mr Geoffrey Brinton, of Dubai, and Mrs Nancy Brinton, of Shindon, West Sussex. Mr S.W. Turacr and Miss C.V. Thornley

The engagement is armounced between Stephen William, son of Mr and Mrs William Turner, of Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, and Catherine Vivien, daughter of Dr and Mrs Ian A. Thornley, of Maidenhead, Berkshire.

## Church services tomorrow

Fourth Sunday in Lent STALBAN CATHEDRAL Herifordshire: 8 HC: 9.30 Euch. New English Hymnal, Brother James's Air (arr. Jacob), The Sub Dean; 13 Solemn Euch, Ave verum corpus (Wils): 6.30 E. The Lord is my shepherd (Stanford). E. Ine Loro is my shephero (Stanford).

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 M. The Wilderness (Goss). The Archdeacon: 3.15 Choral E. Noble in B minor, O for a closer walk with God (Foster).

BANCOR CATHEDRAL: 8 Hoty Euch: 9.45 Cymun Bendigaid; 11 Choral Litary & Euch. Darke in F. Lord we pray thee (Haydil). This is my commandment (Tailis): 4.30 Preach & Praise. The Bishoo. Darke III P. Lod we provide the system. This is my commandment (Tailis): 4.30 Preach & Praise. The Bishop.

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 S Euch. One thing have 1 desired (Sumsion). Harwood in A flat. A Hymn to the Virgin (Britten): 3.30 Choral E. Harwood in A flat, Save us O Lord (Bairstow).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP. 9.15 HC: 11 Choral Euch. Brother James' Air farr. Jacob). Sicut ceyus (Palestrinal, Rev A Green: 4 Choral E. Slanford in G. Canon M Tunniciffe.

E. Slanford in G. Canon M Tunniciffe.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9,15 Choral M. Jesu Joy of man's desiring (Bach). Canon of Jissi by or man's deshing Bach, Canolica Galilee: 10.30 Euch, Ireland in C. O nata jux Irallis, The Provos: 4 Choral E. Hear my prayer (Mendelssohn), Canon Hindley.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8. 11 Holy Euch, Plainsone, Canon R Williams: 3.30 E. Purcell in Biflat, Remember O Lord what is come upon us (Walmisley).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL. College Green: 7.40
M: 8 HC: 10 Choral Euch, Set me as a seal
(Walton). Canon A Redfern: 3.30 Choral E.
Since by man came death [Handel], Canon P.
Johnson.

Johnson.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 M. When David heard that Absalom was slain. (Weekles): 11 S Euch & Confirmation. Collegium Regale (Darke). The Bishop of Maidstone; 3.15 E. Laudate pueri (Scartantie. 6.30 Compilne. The Archdeacon of Canserbury.

Maidstone; 3.13 E. Laudate puen scarattii:
6.30 Compiline. The Archdeacon of Cankerbury.
CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; B HC: 10.30 S Euch. The Lamentation (Bairstow), Archdeacon D Turmbull: 3 E. Short Service (Farrant), Insanae et vanae curae (Haydn), Archdeacon D Turmbull: 3 E. Short Service (Farrant), Insanae et vanae curae (Haydn), CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: B HC, Canon B Thompson; 9.30 Euch & Farade, Rev I Moody; II Choral M. Benedicite in B flat (Sumsion), O Lord took down (Bairishill), 6 Choral E. St John's Service (Howeilst, Drop drop slow tears (Walton), Canon D Kriight, CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: B HC; 10 Euch. Short Service (Taills), Jesu Joy of man's desiring (Bach), Rev T Barker; II: 30 Choral M. Benedicite (Jackson in G), O most merchial (Bullock), Canon T Dennis; 3.30 Choral E. Fith Service (Tomkinst: 6.30 ES. Canon T Dennis. CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Benedicite (Jackson in G), O most merchial (Bullock), Canon T Dennis; 3.30 Choral E. Fith Service (Tomkinst: 6.30 ES. Canon T Dennis. CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Benedicite (Jackson in G), Lord for dry tenderery's 3ak (Hilton); II S Euch, Missa Brevis (Paiestrina), O saviour of the world (Ouseley), The Archdeacon of Chichester; 3.30 E. Chilchester Service (Watton).
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M & Sermon, Miserere (Victorial, Canon Jeffery: II: 15 S Euch, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Tantum ergo (Duruflé), The Dean: 6 E. For five volces (Weekles), O Lord look down (Bairishil), COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 Communion: 10.30 Euch, Coventry Mass (Walker), Lift up your heads (Handel), Rt Rev A Priddis: 3 German Luiterans: 5 E. God be in my head (Rutter), Verse Service (Headh).

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Mozart in C. Hymn to the Mother of God

(Taverner). Ven D Gamett: 6 Choral E. Laboravi in gemito (Caldara), Ven I Gatford. DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. The Dean: 10 M. A Durham Canticle. The Lord is my shepherd (Berkeley). Canon D Hodgson; 11.15 HC. Missa brevis (Leighton). Credo orbis factor, O nata lux (Tailis), Canon M Perry: 3.30 E. Crossing the bar (Westrup). ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC. Rev J Inge; 10.30 S Euch. Schubert in G. Ave Maria (Bruckner). The Lord Bishop: 3.45 E. Ave Maris stella (Grieg). EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch. Hide not thou thy face (Parram). Missa Brevis (Britten), Ave verum corpus (Eigarl. Canon A Mawson: 11.15 M. The Lord is my shepherd (Berkeley). The Dean; 3 E. Darke in F. The Lord is my shepherd (Stanford): 6.30 Evening. The Lord is my shepherd (Stanford): 6.30 Evening. The Lord is my shepherd. Canon D Ison.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8. 12.15 HC; 10.15 Euch. Little Organ Mass (Haydin), Canon J de Sausmarez: 3 E. Collegium Regale (Wood in F). Blest pair of sirens (Parry).

GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Rev J Clark: 9.45 S Euch. Libary (Loosemore). Missa Acterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Canon Dr M Palmer: 11.15 M. Benedicite in G Dackson). Candique de Jean Racine (Faure). The Dean; 6.30 Evening Service for Mothering Sunday, Laudate Dominum (Mozart), Ven M Wilson.

9.45 S Euch. Litany (Loosemore). Missa Aeterma Christi Munera (Palestrina). Canon Dr M Palmer: 11.15 M. Benedicite in G Gackson). Cantique de Jean Racine (Faure). The Deart; 6.30 Evening Service for Mothering Sunday, Laudate Dominum (Mozard). Ven M Wilson. HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC.: 10 Euch. Thou knowest Lord (Purcell). Missa Aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina): 11.30 Benedicite (Sumsion in B flat), Jubilate (Purcell) in B flat), Lord we beseech thee (Batten): 3.30 E. Howelis in B minor, O pray for the peace (Howells). LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC.: 10 M: 10.30 Euch. God be in my head (Davies). The Bishop: 4 Choral E. Sumsion in G. Hymn to the Mother of God (Tavener). Canon i Richards.
LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC.: 10.30 S Euch. Bogorodisc Devol (Rachmaninov), Ave verum corpus (Byrd). The Chancellor: 3.30 E. Humfrey in E minor, Ave Masía (Parsons). LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Family Commonion. The People's Communion (Sumsion). Ave Masía (Saint-Saens). All I am will sing out (Hulleren). The Dean: 11.15 M. Benedicite in B flat (Masshall). The angel Gabriel: 3.45 E. The Lord is my shepherd (Stanford), Canon B Pearmain.
LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch: 3 Choral E: 4 HC.
MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M; 9 Euch: 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis in F K! 92 (Mozard). The Lord is my shepherd (Schubert). The Archdeacon; 6.30 E. Thou knowest Lord (Purcell). The Dean.
NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8 HC; 9.15 Family Communion: 10.30 S Euch, Darke in E. Ave verum corpus (Eglan, Canon R Hanmer, 3.30 E. Second Service (Byrd). Faire is the heaven Harris), The Archdeacon of Lynn, 6.30 Healing & Reconciliation, Canon R Hanmer, 3.30 E. The Lord is my shepherd (Berkletey).
RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch. Canon K Purshon; 8.45 M; 9.30 Euch & Flower Ceremony, For the beauny of the earth (Rutter). Canon M Glarwille-Smith; 11.30 Choral Euch, Sinch Petron M Glarwille-Smith; 11.30 Choral Euch,

Jehova quam multi sunt hostes (Purcell).
SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 Euch,
Litany (Tallis), I sing of a maiden (Shephard),
Canon J Osborne; 1130 M. Lamentation
(Bairstow), Hide not thou thy face (Parrant),
Rev A Philip: 3 E. O Lord, Almighty God
(Navion) (Naylot).
SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 MP: 10.30
SEUCH, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Agnus Del II
(Palestrina), Canon C Smith: 6.30 E 8 Sermon,
Expecians Expectavi (Wood), Rev C Collins
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch, Rev R
White: 11 Choral Euch, Messe Solennelle
(Vierne), Hear my prayer (Purcell), Prof J
Barton: 3 Choral E, Murrill in E, Hear my
prayer (Mendelssohn), Rev D Painter.

(Vierne), Hear my prayer (Purceil), Prof J Barton: 3 Choral E. Murrill in E. Hear my prayer (Mendelssohn), Rev D Painter. TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 Communion: 9 M: 10 S Euch, Kyrie, Sanctus & Benedictus (Duruffe), Agnus Dei (Plainsong), Salvator Mundi (Fallis), The Librarian: 6 E. Hear my prayer (Purceil), The Dean. WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 9.15 Parish C. Litany to the Holy Spirit (Hurford), Canon I Knor; 1) Euch, Vaughan Williams in G milnor. Turn thy face from my sins (Astwood), Canon G Naim-Briggs; 4 E and Installation of canon, Let all the world (Vaughan Williams), The

Let all the world (Yaughan Williams). The Bishop.
WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Ven R Acworth; 11.30 M. Love's endeavour love's expense (Rose): 3 E. The Second Service (Leighton), Lord let me know mine end (Greene), Rev A Appleby.
WESTMINSTER ABEEY: 8 HC; 10 M. Shon Service (Byrd), Saivator Mundi (Tailis), Canon D Hutt: 11.15 Euch, Missa brevis (Harvey), Call to remembrance (Farrant). A Litany (Waiton). Sis. H Markey: 3 E. Victoria in the first tone. Christus factus est (Bruckner), Rev M Oakley: 5.45 Recitai; 6.30 Svening, Rev J Goodal.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 9 Family Mass; (0.30 Solemn Mass, Missa Sancta et immaculaia (Guerrero). Salvator : mundi Blow): 2.45 Recitai; 3.30 Solemn V & B. Magnificat primi toni (Lassus), Hei mini (Guerrero).
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M.

Magninesi primi uni (Lassus), riei muni (Guerrero).

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M. Benedicius in C (Stanford), 0 for a closer walk (Stanford). Rev C Stewart: 11.30 Euch, Misse Euge bone (Tye), Pradlumihum in D minor (Bustehude); 3.30 E, Howells in B minor, Tebye poyem (Tchalkovsky), Rev A Walker.

VORE MINISTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Leighton), Rev P Ferguson: 11.30 M. The Lamentation (Balristow). Benedicius (Moore): 4 E, Eta Mater (Dvorak), Rev D Balley.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL: Ciwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral M, Ave Maris Stella (Grieg), Very Rev K Goulstone: 3.30 EP. Choral M, Ave Maris Stella (Grieg), Very Rev K
GOulstone 3.30 EP.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 Cymun
Bendigald. Y Deon: 9.30 Parish Euch: 11.15
Choral M. Agnus Dei (Rheinberger), The
Succentor: 6 Choral E, Dyson in F. O Lord look
down from heaven (Bartishill), The Dean.
ST EDMINDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC.
Canon M Shaw; 10 S Euch. Canon R
Addington. Sanderstead Service (How).
Oldroyd in D. Faire is the hearen (Harris), Ave
verum (Byrd): 11.30 HC. Rev R Davey: 3.30
Choral E Tons pulchra es (Brucher).
ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10,
6 LM; 11.30 Solemn M. Mass Int G (Haydn).
Duo seraphim (Dering), Fr P Turner; 2
Ghanalan Mass; 5 Stations of the Cross.
ST MARTS CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 10.30 Euch.
Mendelssohn Mass movements, The Provost;
3.30 Choral E, Puroell in G minor. Lord let me
know mine end (Greene); 6.30 Compline; 8
Chapter House Choral Singers. ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 Morning, Rev R Frazer: 6 Evening, Rev D Molyneaux.

Molyneaux.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL London: 8 HC: 8.45
M; II S Euch, Missa Brevis (Paletrina), Hymn
to the Mother of God (Tavener), Canon S Oliver,
3.15 E. Collegium Regale (Tavener), Liove the
Lord (Harvey), Rev Dr L Griffiths; S Recital.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, Enrismore Gardens, London, SW? 10.30 Divine
Liturgy, 6 Vespers and Ritual of Forgiveness.
ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, WI: 8, 5.15 LM:
11 HJM, Mass in B Tiat (Schubert), The Vica; 6 E
& B, Sumsion in A, Rev T Devonshier Jones.
ALL SOMIS. Lancham Place, WI: 11 ALL SOULS, Lancham Place, WI: II Mothering Sunday, Rev R Tice, 6.30 With All Souls Orchestra, Rev R Trist. THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa brevis in B fiat, K275 (Mozant, Lord let me know mine end (Greene). CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC: 10 Children: 11 M. Lord let me know mine end (Greene), Rev Dr P Elvy; 12.15 HC; 6 E, Rev Dr P Elvy. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Curzon St. WI: 11 SURGEY SCHOOL
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.
CEVERT GARDER, WC2: 11.15 Rev S Hood; 6.30
Road, SW7: 9 ASB HC, Rev S Millar; 11
Morning, Rev R Thorpe; 5, 7 Informal, Mr R
Costa.

Costa.
THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Scala Aretina (Valis), Laudate Dominum (Palestrina); 12.30, 4,30, 7 Mass: 3.30 V & B. Cantate Domino (Pionf).
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdas, WS: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y WESLEYS CHAPEL, City Road, ECZ: 9.45 HC;
11 Morning, Mothering Sunday, Rev Dr L
CHITTING Il Morning, Mothering Sunday, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SWI: 11 Mothering Sunday; 6.30 Special Services, Rev K Carner.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St. EC2: 11 Choral Euch, Rev P Schmiege; 7 Lutheran Choral Vespers, Peter Kroguli. Schmigge. 7 Utilieran Choral Vespers, Peter Kroguli. ST AUGUSTINE, 117 Queen's Gate, SW7: 8.30 HC; 11 HC, Missa Ave Maria (Palestrina), Ave Maria (Victoria). ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT. Smithfield. EC1:9 HC; 11 Parmily Buch, Missa Bell' amfiltri aliera (Lassus), Ave Maria (Jayl Busto). The Rector: 6.30 E. Fauxbourdons (Whitlock), Salve Regina (Obrech), The Rector. ST BRIDE'S. Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Benedictie (Sümsion in D), Purcell in D. Lord let me know mine end (Parry), Canon J Oales. 6.30 Choral E. Magnificat/Nunc Diminis (Purcell in E minor), Canon J Oales. ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Choral Euch, Mass In G (Schubern), O sacrum convivum (Tallisi, Rev A Davis. ST CCULMBAYS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

KEY A LEVIS.

ST COLUMBAS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.
PONT Street. SWI: 11 Rev W Calmis; 6:30 Rev C
MacLeod.

ST ETHELDREDAS, Ely Place: 11 S Mass,
Asperges Me (Victoria), Colloredo Mass
(Mozard, Laudate Nomen Domini (Mendelssohn). ST GEORGES, Handver Square, W1: 8,30 HC: 11 S Euch, treland in C. The Rector

ST JAMES'S, Garficklythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch (1662), John Paul, Rector. ST JAMES'S. Sasser Gardens. W2: 8 Euch; 10:30 S Euch. Misse Brevts (Monteverds, God so loved the world (Stainer, Rev A Meidram; 6 Choral E. Short Service ,Gibbons; Bow thine ear (Brod).

ST JAMES'S. Piccadity: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch. S Robinson: 5.45 EP. ST JAMES'S. Piccadilly: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch. S Robinson: 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S. Stratford E15: 11 Family. Trumper Tune and Air (Parnelli, Rev D Richards: 6.20 HC, Rev M Okello.

ST LURE'S. Chelsea. SW3: 8 HC: 10.30 MP & HC. Let Propse. Rev C Kevili-Davies: 6.30 E. Give aimes of thy goods fryel, Sir R O'Brien. ST MARKS. Regents Park Rd. NW1: 10.30 Parish Euch. If you love me [Tallist], Geistliches Lied (Brahms). The Bishop of London.

ST MARGARET'S. Westminster. SW1: 11 S. Euch. Missa Trinitains Sancti (Grier). Libera nos. Salve nos (Sheppard). Rev Dr P Bradshaw. ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS. WC2: 8 HC: 9.45 Euch. Rev A Hurst: 11.30 Visitors. Rev C Herbert: 2.45 Chinese. Rev G Lee: 6.30 Evenling.

Evening.
ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH. Kensington W8:
8,12,30 HC: 9,30 Parish Euch. The Victor: 11,15
Choral M. Rev F Gelli; 6,30 E. Mrs P Haines.
ST MARY'S, Bourne Street. SWI: 9,10,7 LM: 11
HM. Messa di Gioria (Puccini), Fr. S Young: 6
Solemn E & B. ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC: 10.30 Parish Euch, Missa I'hora passa (Viadana), O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Howells), Rev J Ovenden; 6 EP, Prayers & Meditation

MEDITATION.

ST MARTLEBONE. Marylebone Road. WI: 8
HC: 11 Choral Euch, Mass (Libert), Holy is the true light (Harris), Rev T Clark.

ST MICHAEL'S. Cornhill, EC3: 11 Choral Service, Lamentation (Bairstow), Benedictus (Stainer in E flat, Remember now thy creator (Steggall), David Powell.

Craig. CHAPEL ROYAL Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC (1662): 11 M. The Short Service (Gibbons). Behold as truly as God is our Father (Mathlas); 3.30 E. Sans Day Carol (arr. Rutter). GROSVENOR CHAPEL South Audley Street, Wi: 8.15 HC; Il Sung Euch, Missa Eliensis, O Lord look down (Battishill), Jesus Christ Christus unger Helland (Bach), Rev S Hobbs.

(Steggall), David Powell.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Piace, SWI: 8, 9 HC: 11
Solemn Euch, Missa in honorem Santa Maris
Virgine (Zipoll), Ave Maria (Hoisti, Lift thine
eyes (Mendelssohn), Rev N Dawson.
CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCUIA.
HM Tower of London: 9,15 HC. Rev P Abram.
11 M & Sermon. Benedictus (Harwood in A
flat), O Lord God of my salvation (Biow), Rev P
Abram.

Christus unver Heiland (Bach), Rev S Hobbs.
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11
M, Benedicte (Nayior), O for the wings of a dove
(Mendelssohn), Very Rev C Siee; 12:30 HC.
THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street. 8:30 HC.
11.15 MP, Benedicite omnia opera (Dyson in
F), Benedicite; Dyson in F), O Lord Almighty
God (Nayior). The Reader.
GUARD'S CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks. SWI:
11 M. O Lord increase my faith (Loosemore).
The Lord is my shepherd (Schubert), Band of
the Blues & Royuls, Rev P Basher; 12 HC.
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL.
Greenwich, SEIO: 11 Mothering Sunday.
Choral Euch, Dance in E flat, Ecce socer dos
(Bruckner), Rev C French. cochester, essex, left estate val-ued at £1,058,512 net. She left £1,000 each to St Peter ad Vincula Church, Coggeshall, the NSPCC and St Helena Hospice, Colchester.

## Crufts results

The following are the results from the second day of Crusts at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham: Toy and Utility Groups

Affenpinscher: Ch Avantgarde Rebarbadve Miss J Gruninger. Potters Bar. Herts. Griffon Bruzellols. Fennymore Spanking Good Time: Mr & Mrs P Mercer. Chorley. Lancs. Italian Greyhound: Ch Saispa Salvador: Mr & Mrs J Hardcastle. Osser W Vorks Salvador: Mr & Mis J Hardcastle.
Osser, W Yorks.
Lowchen: Ch Beaulion Brahms &
Lizst: Mr P Scarth, Leeds.
Malitese: Ch Abbyat Cracklin Rose
Snowgoose: Mrs V Herrieff, Woking,
Surrey.
Pomeranian: Ch Cradarr Military
Tatioo: Mrs P Wallace, Sheffield.
German Soliz (Mirall: Wundles The

romeramia: Cir Cradar Ministry Tatioo: Mrs P Wallace, Sheffield.
German Spitz (Minel): Wyndlee The Crowman: Mr & Mrs P Beard, Seiston, Notts.
Schipperke: Ch Frawnhowil Black Minstrel For Aradet Miss M Deats, Thetford. Norfolk.
Schnauser: Ch Geistroll Othello Al Tamberg: Mr & Mrs C Ogburn, Tamersall Bridge, Lincs.
Australian Silby Terrier: Ch Amton's TJ Bear Extraordinaire: Miss J Sharp.
Rednal, Birmingham.
Bichoo Frise: Flonavar Miss Kitty, Mr and Mrs J Reynolds, Redolich, Wores. English Toy Terrier: Pooghans Blade: Miss McCarthy, Bingham, Blade: Miss McCarthy, Bingham, Notts.

Miniature Pinscher: Kilmulr Goldencorn Gambler: Mrs H McLean, Lanarkshire. Pekinese Ch Stsanja Grand Finale at Yankee: Mr A Easdon. Glasgow. Chow Chow: Ch Chowsan Made to Measure for Miketilia: Mrs E Cannon, Solihuli, West Mids. French Buildog: Twinhoe Vernon, Mr C Blair, Bath, Avon.

Japanese Shiba Inu: Ch Vormund I'm Smartue: Mrs E Dunhill. Retford, Notts.

I'm Smarue: Mrs E Dunhill. Retford, Notts.
Japanese Spltz: Preshas Geisha Girl Over Lanteague: Mrs S Jones, Oxford, Poodle (toy): Ch Valetta Love Affair, Miss V Dunn, Newport, Gwent. Chihuihui flong coati: Yeosinga Rla at Ballybroke: Mr and Mrs G Foote, Burgess Hill, West Sussex.
Japanese Chin: Yval Shuji Tamura: Mrs E Tappenden, Salisbury, Wilts.

German Spitz (Klein): Lireva's Minnah The Minx at Wentgarth: Mrs F Baird, Dorset.

Japanese Akita: Manashay's Royal Heritage at Redwitch: Mr S Kinghorn, East Lothian.

Poodle (miniature): Ch Rosville The Cool Dude at Glynpedr: Messr Boarwright and Williams, Stechford, Birmingham.

Char-Pel: Samsara Lass Edition at Wanchai: Mr and Mrs P Highland.
Rochester, Kent.
Tibetan Terrier: Ch Hotang Heruka of Willowbrae: Mrs J Robin-Smith, North Chailey, East Sussex.

Chihulini (smooth coat): Ch Diella Pretty In Pink: Mrs E Lainney, Welling, Kent.

Cavaller King Charles Spaniel: Trirayne Alexius the Great Mrs P Raynor, High Wycombe, Bucks.
King Charles Spaniel: Ch Tewhit Traidmart: Mrs B Plews, Doncaster, South Yorks.

Papillon: Ch Tussalud Storyteller Mrs K Stewart, Banon-le-Clay, Beds.
Pug: Ch Marrinavale Mignonette: Miss K Cooper, Torquay, Devon.

Boston Terrier: Ch Lovece Star Performer: Mrs S Borthwick, Mid Lothian.

Buildog: Ch Ocobo Tully: Mrs P Boston Terrier: Ch Lovece Star Performer: Mrs S Borthwick, Mid Lothian.

Buildog: Ch Ocobo Tully: Mrs P Davis, Kings Lynn, Norfolk.
Canaan Dog: Kibutzer Oween in Kotyn: Miss M Vincent, Strencham, Worcestershire.
Reeshond: Ch Deminiac Mustang Saily: Mrs E Wogan, Wicklow, Eire. Leonberger: Manorguard Away We Go To Gocolda: Mr and Mrs D Rushby, Glossop, Derbyshire.
Tibetan Spaniel: Inglespan Razzamatazz for Langshi: Mrs J Carter. Mariborough. Wilts.
Chinese crested: Glebeheath the Gentleman: Mrs J Guvercin. Swindon, Wilts.
Yorkshire Terrier: Ch Ozmilion Mystification: Mr O Sameja, London. Dalmatian: Ch Playing Again at Shantax: Mr M Easey, Romford, Essex.
Poodle (standard): Ch Shangrila's Saint 'n Sinner: Mrs E Weir. Hamilion. Scotland.
Miniature Schnauzer: Chansen's Toyboy at Caskayd: Mr and Mrs S Wareing.
Gloucestershire.
Shih-tzu: Ch Emrose Michelin Man: Mrs J Howells, Llanelli, Dyfed.

#### Latest wills

Claude Weatherell, of Cottenham. Cambridgeshire left estate valued at E1,079,528 net. Olive Jessie Birkin, of Coggeshall, Colchester, Essex, left estate val-

Sandra Ann Lambarth, of West Hanningfield, Chelmsford, Essex, left estate valued at £1,794,127 net.

Evelyn Eileen Robertson, of West Chiltington, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,389,140 net. tate valued at £1,389,140 net.
Christopher Barker, of Winchester, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,784,196 net.
He left £1,000 to \$1 John the Baptist church. Winchester, £500 each to Arthritis and Rheumatism Council. R\$PCA. Halleybury Society, Winchester Cathedral Music Fund and Friends of the Cathedral; £200 each to Friends of Winchester Hospitals. British Red Cross, N\$PCC and Royal UK Benefloent Association.

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ANTIQUES &

It was not on any human ini-tiative that probecy came; rather it was under the com-pulsion of the Holy Spirit that people spoke as mes-sengers of God. 2 Peter 1: 21 **BIRTHS** AGARWAL - On March 3rd at The Portized Hospital, to Nalmi (née Chatcan) and Manoj, a daughter, a sister for Einhite. AVERY - On March 5th, to Philippa (née Hancock) and Christopher, a son, James Christopher Henry, a brother for Camilla, Emily and Isabel.

BALMFORTH - On March 3rd,
to Claire (ade Tompkins)
and Marcus, a beautiful
doughter, Fenelia Netsaha, a
sister for Benjamin.

BASSETT - At Ronkswood
Hospital, Worcester on
Tuesday 4th March 1997, to
Yvonne (ade Wheeler) and
Poter, a son, Alexander
James Frank.

BOTTOMERY - On 5th March panes Frank.
BÖTTOMEFY - Op 5th March
1997 at Guy's Hospital, to
Nieves (de Vicente
Camicero) and Henry, a son,
Edward Enrique. CLARK - On jamuary 26th, to Helen (née See) and Ewan, a daughter, Amy Elizabeth. CRAWFORD - On 12th February, to Sylviz (née Brown) and Barty, a son, Adam Gilbert Thompson, a brother for Jonathan and Emma. MACKET PAIN - On 29th January, to Elizabeth and Nicholas, a daughter, Emma Edith Wenllian, a sister for

BIRTHS HALL - On 31st January 1997 at Watford General Hospital, ROBERTSON - On February 28th at The Portland Hospital, to Mireille and at Watford General Hospital, to Beveriey (née Eastin) and Laurence, a beautiful daughter, Adelle Zarah, a sister for Krystina. HOWELL - On March 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Susan Clayton and Chris Howell, a son, Colin Clayton Howell, a brother for Jason. March 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Hana and Nick, a daughter, Taljana, a sister for Juliette. HUGNES - To Ruth (née Mocky) and Richolas, a son, Russell David Glya, born 12th January 1997, Hampstead, a brother for Olivia and Elsanor. SCOPES - On 25th February, to Susanna and Graham, a beautiful daughter Gabriella Joyne, a sister for Andrew,

OMERVALE-SCOTT - Teresa, Daniel and Mary are delighted to announce the birth of Theodore Tristan John on 5th March at Queen Charlotte's Hospital JEFFREYS - On March 2nd, to Suzanne (née Witherick) and Siznou, a son, Edward George, a brother for Henry. KAMARIS - On March 4th at The Portland Hospital, to Michael and Ross, a daughter, Spyroulla, a siste for Andrea. at Queen Marys, Sidoup, to Philippa (née Catton) and René, a son, Maximilian Brober Methers MORRIS - On February 20th 1997, to Mark and Julia, a daughter, Holly Grace.

**DEATHS** RANDLE - On 22nd February in Bulawayo; to Brigitte and William, a daughter, Lucy Eleanor, a sister for Georgina, Jack and Mathilda. BARRINGEN - Arthur Thomas died on March 5th at home in Reeding, aged 76. Beloved husband of Mary, much loved father of Martin and Belinds, father-in-law of RAY - On March 5th, to Elspeth (née Partridge) and Simon, a

DEATHS

BRYANT - Dennis Issaed. On Thursday 6th March after a short illness borne with fortitude, optimism and dignity. Beloved humband of Besson. Sadty missed by his family and friends. Pomenal at GT Barton Church of Thursday 13th March at 33m followed by creamtion. No flowers. Donations if desired to Eastenford Lodge Building Fund sent of a feet of Christopher, Lacy and Alice. Service at Rawdon. No flowers. Donations if desired to Eastenford Lodge Building Fund sent of a feet of Christopher, Lacy and Alice. Service at St Andrew's Church, 1983 1NL.

SURRE - On 6th March, 1997, pencefully in hospital, willied (Will) Priest. Beloved habland of Joan. Family Indied for the NS PCC. A plate will be provided at the function of the finest flower of the

IN MEMORIAM ---PRIVATE SENTA MARNAU - 9th March, 1985: Qu' importe-t-il si la vase est brisée, puisque fésse est consolé, et puisque le monde se trouve, naigné ini, obligé de sentir les parfums qui en découlent, parfums qui servent la puriller l'air empoisonné que le monde ne cesse de resolute? ANNOUNCEMENTS FOURTH WAY SCHOOL in the itying themen or accepting and Cospensity now accepting students O181 347 5383.

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#### **OBITUARIES**

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Michael Manley, PC, Prime Minister of Jamaica, 1972-80, and 1989-92, died yesterday in Kingston. Jamaica, aged 72. He was born in St Andrew, Jamaica, on December 10. · 1924.

Three times elected Prime Minister of an independent Jamaica, Michael Manley was initially a hardline socialist, who forged close links with Fidel Castro and was a champion of the Non-Aligned Movement. But his electoral defeat by the conservative Edward Seaga in 1980 changed his perception of what was likely to be good for his country.

By the time he faced up to re-election in 1989, the rhetoric had changed completely, abandoned along with the Castroesque bush jacket. Private investment and good relations with the US were now on the agenda. With the economy in poor shape he trounced Seaga to gain a third term as Jamaica's Prime Minister. Char-ismatic, tall and handsome, he was often called "Joshua" after the Old Testament

Michael Norman Manley came from a dynasty of artistic and political talent. His father, Norman Washington Manley, was the first Prime Minister of Jamaica before independence, and the founder of the People's National Party (PNP). The founder and leader of the rival Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) William Alexander Clarke, better known as Alexander Bustamante, was a cousin.

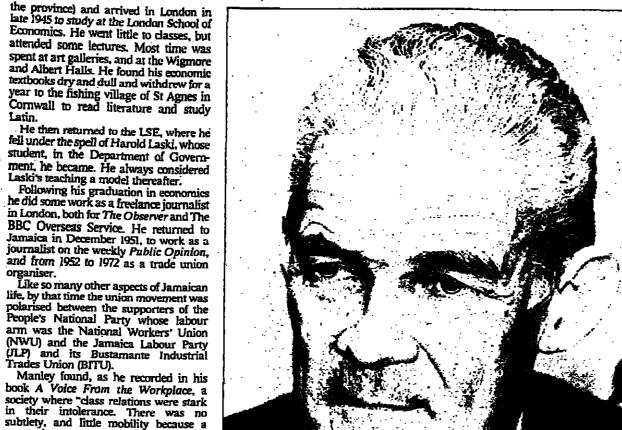
His mother. Edna Manley, was a sculptor of international renown. His father Norman was to become one of the most distinguished barristers in the Caribbean. Both became committed, in the Depression of the 1930s, which hit Jamaica very hard, to the struggle for workers' rights and for universal

suffrage.

Michael Manley was educated at a leading school of the island, Jamaica College in Kingston. His parents' influence was deep and all-round and guided his interest in music (Manley was passionately fond of classical music), art, literature and politics.

In 1943 Manley left Jamaica College and, like so many other middle-class West Indian young men, volunteered for service as aircrew — in his case with the Royal Canadian Air Force. He did not like Canada (he was in Quebec, and rebelled against the then bigoted Catholicism of

# MICHAEL MANLEY



to the building: "There are the walls of Jericho". From one in the crowd came the response: "It Joshua who speaks!"

From then on, he was, effectively, Joshua, a notion which served him marvellously when he succeeded his father in February 1969 as president and leader of the PNP (his father had been terminally ill since October the previous

A month later he stated his programme to the party conference. He said it was a search for equality which widespread

unemployment denied. It was for true national independence, which meant wresting the commanding heights of the economy from foreign control. There must be the politics of participation, at all levels, for both sexes, and corruption must be eliminated from the electoral system. Above all, there: must be a sense of

national identity.

But Manley failed to adequately comprehend that, aided by the breakdown of traditional values seen all over the world, a particularly violent strain of evil was

man with a loud laugh and a

childlike aptitude for pleasure.

he displayed the wildest en-

thusiasm for fast cars and

yachts, rich food, copious drink and too many cigarettes,

fine furniture, entertainment,

the visual arts and travel. It

was while partying and night-

clubbing as a young man with his oldest friend, the architect

Bob Chapman, that he met

many of the talented archi-

tects, illustrators and design-

In 1957 he married Venetia

Brewis, a distinguished pub-

lishers' editor. Her career

introduced him to the literary

world where he made even

more friends, among them

hiographers, political com-

mentators and historians. He

became the proud father of

three children with a large,

hospitable farmhouse near

Lymington. He took a moor-

ing on the Beaulieu River and

commissioned the first yacht

since the war - a wooden Folkhoat called Schiehallion.

In 1477 he reached the peak of

his sailing career by winning

the Contessa Cup at Cowes

to be built at Bucklers Hard

brewing in Kingston's terrible slums. Jamaica did try to respond to his message. It was, so many felt, time to break the mould and to build a new society based on the realities of Jamaica as

it was for the masses. His successful 1972 election campaign was a personal triumph for Joshua and for his Rod of Correction" with 56 per cent of the votes cast and 37 out of the 53 seats in the House of Representative

Manley at first began rather conventionally, but as he moved in to implement his programme he met a determined resistance from the traditional managerial class in Jamaica. The Government began to spend massively in workcreating programmes and it became plain that although Manley was a wonderful inspirer he was not one for the details of government.

His critics, who were increasing, were to say that if he defined a problem he would think he had solved it. But Manley saw things in a world context. He was wanting to see a new world economic order established, and he had a vision about Jamaica and the developing world in general, unrealitistic though it might

In his Cabinet and among advisers were old friends of an often more conventional and gradualist turn of mind. But in the 1900s radical Black Power and leftist ideology had created a power base within the academics of the University of the West Indies at Mona near Kingston, the capital. They found allies among some of the activists in the PNP, and soon in parliament and Cabinet. Some were to move in on the ministries and special agencies that Manley created, often wearing Afro-type clothes and Ras-tafarian-style knitted, multicoloured caps or tams (they were wittily dubbed the "Tampacks" by some Jamaicans). They were to make civil servants' lives a misery and generally added to the administrative

Manley was goaded and led by his ready and witty tongue to appeal to Jamaican pride and nationalism by slogans such as "we are not for sale". His people responded rapturously, and in 1976 he again scored a huge victory at the polls, with 56.8 per cent of the votes.

It appeared to be a massive vote of support for the the PNP and its programme of democratic socialism, but severe economic deterioration set in. Both Manley's and Jamaica's pride resisted the

ultimate solution - an IMF-imposed economic programme. There were cutbacks. The poor, the workers and the women suffered, as the work creation programmes and the public payrolls were cut. Many items of food, particularly imported staples, disappeared from shops and supermarkets.

The IMF and the CIA were blamed for the sea of troubles which now engulfed Jamaica. Washington and Kingston were often at loggerheads, largely because of Manley's warm relations with Fidel Castro. But Cuba was Jamaica's nearest neighbour and Manley refused to condemn Cuba for its armed support of the liberation struggle in southern Africa. particularly in Angola.

In February 1980 it was found impossible to reach a new agreement with the IMF, and the Government prepared for an election as soon as the new register was ready. In March 1980 an election was called, the bloodiest in Jamaica's history. It included the murder for the first time of a parliamentary candidate. The murder rate for that year went unsurpassed until

After that defeat, there were eight years of JLP rule. Manley's mother Edna died in 1987, and in that year he fell severely ill with diverticulitis. But the polls from 1985 onwards had favoured the PNP; Manley was considered — as he was — a humane, likeable man, with immense sympathy for the underdog and the worker.

On February 9, 1988, he was returned to power. He now presented himself as a moderate, though energetic, reformer advocating a limited government involvement in the economy which was to be led by the private sector. Much in the state sector was set down for privatisation. Not for nothing had Manley written: "I am grateful that God has given me the kind of mind that does not assume that what I thought I knew yesterday was an eternal guarantee of truth."

In March 1992 he resigned in office, being succeeded by the present Prime Minister, J. P. Patterson, who has carried on with these policies. Manley struggled with prostate cancer, which was diagnosed six years ago, and, though it was kept in check for a whole by radiation treatment, he eventually died at home. Manley was five times married. He

leaves a widow, Glynne Ewart, whom he married in 1992. From his marriages he had five children, three daughters and

#### PHILIP POLLOCK

man's class was stamped upon his skin as

much as upon his clothes. To middle-class

eyes the working classes were an opaque mass — without individuality and without

rights -- because they were without

Manley went everywhere around the

island with a loudspeaker van. He began to develop his extraordinary powers of

oratory. Later, in the 1970s, there were

many who thought he got carried away by

them, and said things which he would

In the Jamaica of the resonant word, a

society where the sonorities of the King

James Bible continue to be appreciated -

Rastafarians will read no other version of

the Old Testament - his cast of mind

combined culture and politics at a

fundamental level. At a strike at the

Jamaican Broadcasting Corporation

(JBC), during the period from 1962 to 1972

of a JLP Government. Manley and the

NWU demonstrated outside the JBC.

Speaking to his followers, Manley pointed

humanity."

later regret.



Pollock with his wife Venetia in the 1935 Auburn Speedster

viveur, Philip Pollock loved working with, and backing, creative people. He had a flair for detecting coming things fostering of them. As a businessman he was enthusiastic. affable, frank and insightful, with dedicated employees. Philip Samuel Pollock was

Philip Pollock,

entrepreneur, died on

February 15 aged 70. He

was born on June 20.

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ENTREPRENEUR and bon

born in London and educated at Canford. His father, also something of an entrepreneur, was the owner of several pubs, a greyhound track and the cinema at Marble Arch. With a boyish passion for the cinema, Pollock left school at 16 in order to work as a clapper-boy at Ealing Studios. He did his war service in the Fleet Air Arm where, with an eye on Ealing, he joined the Film Unit.

On being demobbed he returned to Ealing. His mother thought the film world unsuitable and bought her son the company Best Tyres. By the mid-1950s the company had become one of the largest tyre chains in southern England. Pollock sold out to Kennings and became today's equivalent of a multimillionaire.

He was now able to give his creative side a free rein. He set up his own furniture company, Aerofoam, making bespoke furniture to his own

designs and introducing one . Conran, Conran's wife Caroof the best-loved icons of the early 1960s - the sag-bag. In 1962 his love of vintage

cars led to the creation, with Edward Montagu (Lord Montagu of Beaulieu), of the stillthriving Vintage Tyre Supplies. Having cannily retained Best Tyre's vintage tyre division Pollock set about reviving the production by Dunlop and others of many tyre sizes that had been discontinued. Without his foresight institutions such as the London to Brighton Run would have come to an end.

In 1964, with Terence

line and Pagan Taylor, he co-founded Habitat. At the same time he had an interest, briefly, in the running of The Establishment with Peter Cook and he supported Bernard and Laura Ashley with

Boys, their first shop. His early interests in entertainment were rekindled in the mid-1980s, when bids were invited for the franchise of an independent radio station in Portsmouth. His consortium, the first of its kind. was successful and Pollock became chairman of Ocean Sound, a company that was later to grow into Southern Radio. He was also involved in the setting up of Lines FM. He was, however, a far from dedicated entrepreneur. Once a company became large, popular and successful, he lost interest. His own tremendous capacity for friendship sometimes affected his business acumen. He had, for example. an innocent (and misplaced)

To many of his friends and he was the most loyal of friends — he was the embudiment of Mr Toad. A big. ebullient, quick-tempered

with his appropriately named yacht. Eclectic. His own eclecticism was reflected not only in the variety of businesses with which he was concerned, but also in the pictures he bought helief that a friend would never stab him in the back. in 1988 for the Contemporary Art Society (and by his own collections in the books he read (he was, for a long time, the sci-fi reader for Faber);

> ventures in Motion Pictures. Although Philip Pollock's last years were marred by the sadly premature death of his wife, ruinous losses at Lloyd's and the cruel affliction of emphysema, his robust spirit, his gift for friendship and his supportive family saw to it that he was comforted. amused and rarely alone.

and lately in his interest in the

dance theatre company, Ad-

## **MAURICE GOLDSMITH**

Maurice Goldsmith science writer, died on March 2 aged 83. He was born on July 15, 1913.

CONVINCED that science was too interesting to be ignored and too important to be mismanaged, Maurice Goldsmith spent his life proselytising. He brought to the task the enthusiasm of the convert, for his degree from the London School of Economics had been in social sciences, which he found too lacking in rigour. He was attracted to physics in the 1930s and greatly influenced by the work of the crystallographer J. D. Bernal, whose book The Social Function of Science was published in 1939.

Maurice Goldsmith was born of Polish parents who had moved to London the year of his birth. His father was a master tailor and he was brought up in the Jewish faith in the East End. As a young man he held deep religious convictions, abandoned the day he stepped over the threshold of the LSE. Before the war he freelanced for various publications, including the Jewish Chronicle and the East London Gazette, but in 1939 was drafted into the War Office Selection Board. where he devised tests for selecting prospective officers.

In his spare time he worked at Reynolds News, then a successful Sunday newspaper with Labour convictions. After the war he became science correspondent of the weekly illustrated, and with other first-generation science writincluding Ritchie Calder of the News Chronicle, J. G. Crowther of the

Manchester Guardian, and Arthur Haslett of The Times founded in 1947 the Association of British Science

Like others, he discovered that popularising science did



not necessarily make it popular. Science writers could alert the public, set agendas and provide materials for imaginative play, he later wrote, but could not be relied upon to transmit the essence of science. For a while he became a science teacher in a secondary school, before joining the then Department of Natural Sciences at Unesco in Paris as science editor. He wrote articles that were distributed around the world in many languages, helped to set up an association of French science writers, and launched the Unesco journal Impact of Science on Society. He persuaded the Indian industrialist B. Patnaik to provide funds for the Kalinga Prize for Science Writing, still awarded today.

In the mid-1950s, he presented the first-ever science programme on commercial television, a weekly half-hour for ATV called Meet the Professor. In a tiny studio in the West End he conducted interviews with leading scientists as they boiled under the lights. But his long-term interest was not so much the content of science, but how it could best be organised for human welfare. Until the early 1960s little attempt had been made to plan science strategi-cally. "The hard fact is that we are colossally ignorant," he wrote in The Times in 1966. The methods of science have not been used to study the processes of science itself. We let science grow wildly, so that it progresses inefficiently and its rate of advance is In 1964 Goldsmith had pubату

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lished with Alan Mackay a book called The Science of Science, establishing the same year the Science of Science Foundation - later the Science Policy Foundation - of which he became director. His genius for networking provided the foundation with a distinguished committee of management and it made many contributions towards a better understanding of how to manage science. Introducing a lecture by Goldsmith at the Royal Society of Arts in 1967, C. P. Snow said: "Goldsmith is one of those characters, far too rare in any society. who act as a creative influence. Most people don't know the innumerable things he has started all over the field of science, as a labour of love quite unrecognised by society. Goldsmith wrote or edited

many books, including biographies of Joseph Needham and J. D. Bernal, and in 1986 published The Science Critic. a call for a new kind of person who could act in science as critics do in art, film or music He envisaged the science critic as a polymath, able to examine the progress of research and point to its likely implications, to act as a participant in ethical debates, and help the public to understand the poetry of scientific experience. In this way, Goldsmith hoped, the gap between Snow's two cultures might at last be bridged.

He leaves a wife, Anna, and one son.

## DEDCOMAI

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#### RACING A WONDERFUL DOUBLE

A year ago Miss Dorothy Paget won the two most important events of the afternoon, the Champion Hurdle and the Cheltenham Gold Cup, with Insurance and Golden Miller, trained for her by Briscoe and ridden by Leader. History repeated itself yesterday almost in detail, the only difference being that Stoff was the rider in place of Leader, All concerned, and not least the horses, are to be congratulated on a very wonderful double, for it means that the two horses are the best hurdler and the best steeplechaser in training, just as they were a year ago. Briscoe is to be congratulated not only on having kept the two horses as good as they were a year ago but on having improved them. As Insurance's race came first it must be dealt with first, although the performance of Golden Miller was the greater in that it was the more easily gained. The pace at which the Champion Hurdle was run was slow for nearly a mile and a half, and it was not until the fine duel to the winning post, with

# ON THIS DAY

March 8, 1933

Golden Miller, the greatest jumper between the wars, won the Grand National the following year, as well as the third of five consecutive Gold Cups, a record unlikely ever to be surpassed.

bottom turn of the course had been made that the speed became worthy of the race. All five starters were still close together, with insurance just in front. He was soon joined by Indian Salmon, with Windermere Laddie close behind. Approaching the last hurdle Insurance was just in front of Windermere Laddie and Indian Salmon. The last-named was beaten as soon as the run-in was reached, but the other two fought out a

Insurance always having just the better of the argument. There was a slightly larger field for the Gold Cup, a steeplechase run over three miles and three furlongs. It was won in the style of a great horse — at last he must be admitted to be that - by ten lengths from Thomond II, with Delaneige third and The Brown Talisman fourth. After Delaneige had made the running for rather more than two miles Golden Miller and Thomond II drew out, and for a short time galloped side by side. Golden Miller than drew away and, galloping with ease, resolution, and obvious enjoyment, went on by himself and in his glory to win without ever being challenged. He was not in the least distressed when he was led back to be unsaddled. Miss Paget led him in, quite properly proud of her horse, who had been received with much cheering out on the course and from the Stands as he went, by himself, past the winning post. The cheering and clapping of hands were renewed when he came back to the paddock.

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TOD The I

# THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY MARCH 8 1997

#### **NEWS**

#### 1.700 women in HIV doctor alert

■ More than 1,700 women were offered HIV tests yesterday after a junior doctor who helped to deliver their babies and carry out hysterectomies was found to be infected with the HIV virus. The doctor, whose identity and sex has not been revealed, worked at four hospitals in Gloucestershire and Essex between February 1991 and January this year .....

#### Blair pledges food standards agency

■ Tony Blair exploited Cabinet tensions over food safety as he announced last night that if a Labour government were elected it would set up an independent food standards agency. Sniping continued between government departments over the report on hygiene in the meat industry ..... ...Pages 1, 2

Rural alliance

Care failure

Albania anarchy

Indigenous fake

the grip of anarchy than in a state

of political rebellion...... Page 14

An elderly woman has embar-

rassed the Australian art world by

passing off her work as that of a

fictitious Aborigine .....Page 15

Life for 'Black Widow'

Austria's "Black Widow" serial

killer has been jailed for life after a

Three countryside pressure groups are to merge in an attempt

to fight Labour plans to outlaw

....Page 8

#### Europe to blame

Judge Daniel Rodwell QC condemned Europe's laws against corporal punishment as he jailed two young arsonists...... Page I

#### Paedophile jailed

Keith Laverack, a senior social services manager, has been jailed for 18 years for sexual assaults on children in care......Page 3 Ancient ways

Residents of homes built on an

#### ancient common must pay the Lord of the Manor whatever he

asks to cross his land to reach their \_\_\_\_\_Page 5 front doors...... Unlawful conduct The Lord Chancellor acted unlaw-

#### fully when he denied people right of access to the courts ...... Page 6 Hollywood beasts

Excavations in Los Angeles for a new rail line have unearthed remains of beasts that roamed Holbywood at the end of the Ice jury found her guilty of murder in ...... Page 7

#### Teacher finds Stone Age ancestor

■ Scientists were astonished when random DNA tests established that a history teacher at a Somerset school is the direct descendent of Cheddar Man, a Stone Age ancestor whose remains were discovered in 1903.....

# NATURE NOTES A schizophrenic who killed his stepfather and stabbed his mother was failed by the professionals who should have helped him, according to a report ...... Page II Southern Albania appears more in

#### OPIMON

Pay as you err: Little faith can be placed in either the pensions industry or the reg-..... Page 21

Country consensus: Hunting needs reform, but it also needs friends ..... Page 21 Shining example: Has American criticism become blind to the strivings and achievements that inspire peo-.. Page 21

#### OBITUARIES Michael Manley, Prime Minister of Jamaica; Maurice Goldsmith, science

## Simon Jenkins: If William

Cobbett could look out on the modern countryside, he would cry with anguish and rage at the veomen of England drenching their fields in chemicals and throwing up bungalows with no care for anything but cash ... Page 20 Sir Peter Hall: Both political parties are craven when it comes to what I care about: our culture ... ... Page 20

LEIJERS Ministerial responsibility in abattoir affair, Albania; child prostitution.

Sears: Littlewoods has decided not to go ahead with plans to buy the Freemans mail order business from Sears but revealed that it is talking to other bidders...... Page 25

Subbuteo: The table-top football game invented at Tunbridge Wells in 1947 is no longer to be made in Britain, a move that will cost 250

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 21.0 points to close at 4420.3. Sterling's tradeweighted index fell from 98.4 to 98.1 after a fall from \$1.6114 \_Page 28 to \$1.6052\_

Motor racing: Damon Hill was 13th after opening practice for the Australian Grand Prix, more than 212 sec behind Michael Schumacher's ...Page 48 Ferrari ...

Football: Chesterfield and Plymouth Argyle have been charged by the FA after a brawl at a match ..... Page 48 Athletics: Wilson Kipketer, of Denmark, set a men's 800m indoor world record of Imin 43.96sec in Paris ...... Page 44

The sandwich at the heart of small car design

King Kohi: What drives the Chancellor ..... Page 12 Soul sister: There's more to Gillian Shephard than sensible shoes..... Page 26

#### Weekend

Low tide: Voting and time for a change \_\_\_\_ Pages 1.2-



Property: Designing a \_Page 8 Home life: Telling parents you are a lesbian. Page II

Top flight: Alisha's Aftic run the country .... Page 6 The biz: The life of a music

#### have flung down the gauntlet, and indeed the



Funny money: The hardnosed business of Comic Relief. ... Page 4 Pages 7, 8 ..... Page 19 | Books:

· ...

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#### THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,422

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

- 1 English trait fairness (8). 5 Extremely protective of Italian
- 8 Falsifying it in a log it can result in legal action (10). 9 Pass the fish (4).
- 10 Singer holding note after sherry, say, that could put one to sleep (14).
- 11 State units of width and weight 13 Fellow everyone gets to make a
- fool of (4,3). 15 Smoke with lady-love in bed (7). 18 Male has row on motorway what's up with the mini? (7).
- 21 Dray horses like running free in North country area (9.5). ■ 22 Song used misleading words (4). 23 Bull housed in castle (10).
- 24 Manoeuvre carefully during race to get cups, etc. (3,3). 25 Dark brown animal caught in
  - trap? On the contrary (8). Solution to Puzzle No 20,416

- 1 Obscure film extracts in middle of reel (7).
- 2 Jack may be in a predicament
- 3 Hat on, and cape (7). 4 Measure concentration of acid
- turning up in game (7). 5 Rescheduled at ten -- live broadcast (9). 6 Kid needs to produce two pounds
- for coddly toy (3-4). 7 Taken in by constable, Australian players arrested on stage (7). 12 Support for Indian lines seen out
- of the corner of one's eye (5-4). 14 Diver left inside craft on government test (9). 16 Crazy old-fashioned measure
- supported by Telegraph (7). 17 Red rose represented in church hanging (7). 18 Athlete - thrower securing first
- in discus (7). 19 Daughter at home in Paris or American capital (7). 20 Leader of church gripped by
  - sectarian spirit (7). Solution to Puzzle No 20,421

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun sets 5.53 pm Moon sets 5.25 pm New moon tom

London 5.53 pm to 6.28 am Bristol 6.03 pm to 6.36 am Edinburgh 6.02 pm to 6.44 am Manchester 6.00 pm to 6.38 am Penzzance 6.16 pm to 6.49 am TOMORROW Sun sets 5.55 pm Sun rises: 6.28 am Moon sets 6.47 pm 6.36 am

New moon today

London 5 55 pm to 6.26 em Bristol 6.05 pm to 6 36 em Edinburgh 6.04 pm to 6 41 em Marachester 6 02 pm to 6 36 em Penzance 6 17 pm to 6 47 em



#### FORECAST

General: southern England and Wales mostly cloudy with a little drizzle in places, the North dry and bright with sunny spells. Temperatures in many places well above normal, but light northeast winds may make North Sea coasts feel chilly. Scotland and Northern Ireland mostly dry with sunny spells after early mist dry, with sunny spells after early mist and tog patches. Winds mostly light. Freshening southerly winds will bring more cloud into the West later.

Temperatures will be mild. C London, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, N Wales, Central N England: a cloudy start but bright spells developing. Wind northeast or mod

erate. Max 11C (52F). ☐ SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, Channel Isles, SW Eng-land, S Wates: mostly cloudy, patchy drizzle on coasts. Wind northeast

becoming southeast, light or moderate. Max 12C (54F). ☐ NW England, Lake District, Isle

of Man, SW Scotland, N Ireland: sunny spells after early frost and mist. Wind variable, becoming southeast or south, light. Max 11C (52F). ☐ NE England, Borders: dry with sunny spells. Wind northeast to east, mainly light. Max 9C (48F).

☐ Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll: dry with sunny spells after early mist and frost. Wind west becoming south, mainly light. Max 10C (50F).

☐ NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orking cloudier. Wind southwest to south, moderate becoming strong. Max 9C

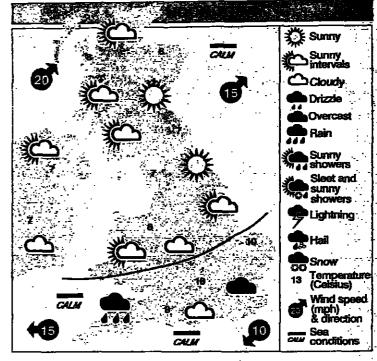
Outlook drizzle in the north and west, otherwise dry with sunny spells.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY brigint, c=cloud; d=chrizzie; ds=clust storm; du=dult; f=falr; fg=fog; g=gale; r=raint; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder Sun Rain Max Sun Rain Mt. hrs in C F hrs n C 55335355534435 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* 0.01 0.01 0.01 0.01

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Changes to the chart above from noon; high B will drift slowly east with little change in central pressure; low Q will run quickly northeast while filling



Mon Dieu! "The French

rest of their clothing."

Richard Morrison on les

films bleus ..... Page 19

Great Gluck: The Welsh

National Opera delivers a

shattering performance of

Gluck's Iphigénie en

Women must weep: Ariel

Dorfman collaborated

with Tony Kushner to

write Widows, returning to

the harrowing themes of

his Death and the

Tauride....



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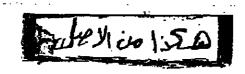
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Weekend

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Naughty with spice: the car that breaks the rules

Page 3

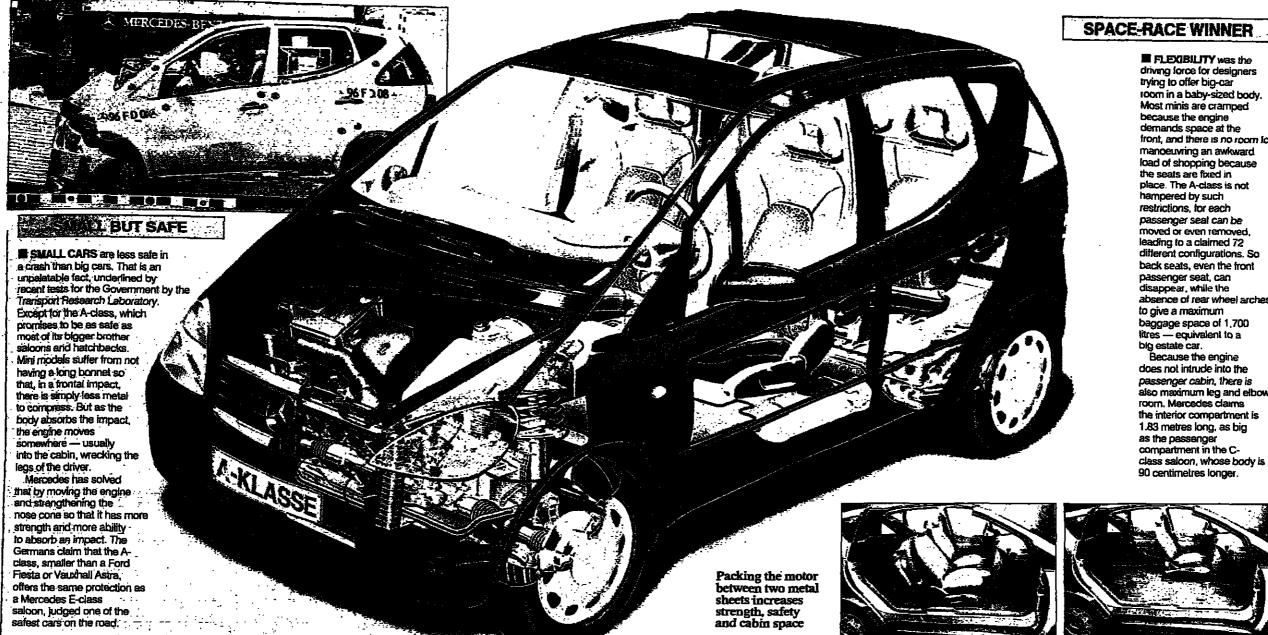


Girl goes South for a winter on two wheels Page 8



SATURDAY MARCH 8 1997

An engine sandwich lies at the heart of the new revolution in small car design, reports Kevin Eason



demands space at the front, and there is no room for also maximum leg and elbow

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he first place you look is under the bonnet. Apart from exceptions like the Porsche-designed en Beetle, the engine has been in the same place almost since the car first took to British roads a century ago.

Flip open the bonnet of the Mercedes A-class, though, and the only thing staring back at you is the future - a future in which the engine is more likely to be underneath than in front.

For Mercedes has revolutionised the small car in almost the same way as Sir Alec Issigonis did when he designed the Mini. The Mini defined the packaging of a small car for almost four decades with its transversely mounted engine driving the front wheels, leaving clear interior space for four passengers

in a box just 10ft long.
As Sir Alec doodled his famous design, he did-not have to worry about crash regulations which could make an engine in the front of a small car more of a liability than a bonus. Designers of modern small cars do though, and that is forcing a radical change in their

There is no place in the new world of motoring for mini-sized minis. Little cars are going to be longer, fatter, heavier, more luxurious - and more expensive. The days of cheap and cheerful - when you opened the door of a Mini with a piece of wire - have gone forever. to be replaced by high-tech, high-style cars which might not be as long as a Rolls-Royce but look like a double-decker bus next to Sir Alec's original.

1 A

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Where the Mini crossed every boundary of class and income in the Sixties to become a motoring icon for everyone, Rover says its new Mini, due in the year 2000,

Mercedes ends a mini era York, Tokyo and London but not

Vest Hartlepcol". In other words, mini-cars are going upmarket - and the carmakers cannot help it. Customers will not tolerate a harsh and noisy ride, no matter how cute and quirky the car, which means that incredibly sophisticated ride and handling packages have been incorporated in the latest cars.

But severe crash regulations have also necessitated huge investment to ensure that new minis are safe. The technology is expensive to develop but has prompted, in the case of the A-class, the biggest advance for years.

In a front-on crash, the driver and passenger are only protected by the strength and "deformability" of the nose; in other words, the bonnet and from structure need to absorb and dissipate the impact long before it reaches the passenger cabin. That is the hardest trick to perform on a small car, simply because the nose is short and stubby, no more than a container

for the engine. On impact, the engine is almost first in the firing line, no matter how big the bumpers and strong the beams designed to absorb the shock, and which run lengthways through the car. The chances are high that the engine will be smacked, like a tennis ball on a racquet, firing it towards the legs of the driver and passenger. In bigger cars, there is enough space in which to manage the impact; in a small car, you are virtually sitting with your feet right up against the

which set Mercedes designers on their path to a unique idea, necessarily appealing to people in packaging the engine out of harm's way, yet still allowing the cabin to be free of intrusive gearbox or

engine bulges. The designers made a sandwich. the top layer a floor that stretches from the throttle, clutch and brake pedals to the rear bumper, the bottom layer a steel protective cover. In between is the fuel tank. battery, front and rear axles, fuse box and exhaust system. The fourcylinder engine has been "sliced" and flattened and lays with the gearbox at the entrance of the

cabin front wall. That leaves the nose free to contain the plastic bitsand-pieces, such as the washer bottle, and stronger impact absorbing beams.

In a crash, the engine is pushed down and into the sandwich floor instead of into the passenger cabin. It is a brilliant yet simple solution that gives the new A-class the level of crash protection only found in big executive cars, according to Mercedes, which unveiled the car for the first time this week at the Geneva Motor Show.

Even Rover's attempt to spoil the

snowing on concept ideas for a Mini for the next century did nothing to stymie the reception of the A-class. Rover's bug-eyed concept cars only confirmed that Mercedes is set on a path that no other carmaker in the world is yet

ready to follow. Rover's designers came up with a similar solution to those at Mercedes, sticking a three-cylinder engine under the back seat but driving the rear wheels, unheard of among small cars these days. Geoff Upex, Rover's design and concepts director, says the rear wheel-drive

idea was simply for "crash man-

the Mini concept cars at Geneva this week shows Rover's designers wanting to put the engine under the rear seats driving the rear wheels. The design is compact and clever, with the fourdoor version about the same length as an A-class but with the interior space of a

BMW 7-series executive saloon. Pity, then, that Rover is forced to retain the original front-engine, front-wheel-drive layout, pioneered by Sir Alec

because the company has no engine short or angled enough to

ment and manoeuvrability Having the engine in the front got in the way of stronger and more absorbent crash beams, which have to weave around the block and its attendant components, while the front wheels could not turn as fully, obstructed by the mountain of metal between them. With rear wheel-drive, the front wheels could have the concept Mini

turning on a pound coin. Upex told me on Rover's Geneva stand that it was an elegant solution for a small car. "We are having to deal with crash regulations which were unimagined in the days of Sir Alec. Having the engine up front just makes the job that much more difficult, but in the rear, it is out of the way and leaves the space clear for us to design the toughest structure.

So the new Mini for the year 2000 will be rear-engined, offering better-than-ever crash protection and cabin space. Er, not exactly because Rover is locked into a deal to take conventional 1.4-litre engines from Chrysler, which will only fit under the bonnet. The Mini concepts were actually 18 months old and a long way from the final version due to be signed off by BMW, Rover's owner, later this year. Bernd Pischetsrieder, BMW's chairman and Issigonis's nephew. decided the Mini had to be recognisably a successor to the original: so, 40 years on, the Mini for the millennium will still be a front-engined, front wheel-drive.

Which leaves the technological field clear for Mercedes, unless Rover has some sparkling ideas none of us can yet imagine. However, to describe the A-class

impression more of a squashed VW Golf in which you sit rather stiffly upright, like a schoolchild told to pay attention. There is lots of legroom though, oddly, headroom seems restricted in spite of the vehicle's height. And the engines are hardly mini-sized: 1.4 and 1.6litre petrol engines and two 1.7-litre diesels, with a power range from 60 to 102 horsepower. So this Mini will

be equally at home cruising as

as a mini is slightly optimistic. It is short (just 3.57 metres compared to

the Ford Ka's 3.63) but tall (more

than 220mm higher than a Ka) and

wide (88mm fatter than Ka). Tha

height also helps make A-class

safer because occupants sit about

20 centimetres higher than in a

conventional hatchback; in a side

on collision, the impact should

come below hip height and at the

strongest part of the car in the door

For all its modern styling, the A-

class seems a bulky car, the overall

negotiating crowded city streets. The mix obviously appeals because Mercedes has already logged interest from 3,500 potential buyers in the UK. One chauffeurhire company has ordered 25. which will be plush, luxurious, leather-trimmed and air-conditioned versions for use around London and the South East. Sales, which start next Spring, could be as high as 22,000 a year here, with customers ranging from young city singles to families who want to buy a safe second car.

They will pay for the privilege of owning an A-class - between E13,000 and E15,000 - but they will also be buying the first generation of mini car to depart from engineering ideas laid down four decades ago. The age of Sir Alec might be ending, but the age of the Mercedes mini is dawning.

#### ROVER'S GREAT IDEA - SHAME IT WON'T HAPPEN

transmit power to the front

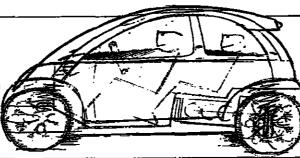
WHEN Sir Alec Issigonis was given the go-ahead to build a revolutionary new Mini 40 years ago this week, legend has it he drew his first sketch on the back of a cigarette packet.

job of designing a new Mini for 2000 seem ham-

strung by Sir Alec's simple but brilliant idea: he decided to package a four-seater car into a box and bonnet just 10ft long. To do that though, he had to find somewhere to put the engine. So he turned it sideways and stuck it on top of a gearbox able to

wheels. That left the cabin space untouched - an idea which spread to the extent that just about every type of small and medium-sized car on the market Now the men charged with the today uses a similar layout.

This sketch, not seen before, of



Newly revealed sketch shows Rover's wishful thinking

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"You are what you drive" is a marketing-led fallacy that scares us into buying self-deprecating window stickers and shunning perfectly good cars

# Snobs have Skoda marqued for life

stickers of the last decade or so has been the one that starts "My other car's a . . . " to be completed by Rolls-Royce, BMW or Mercedes. The sticker is most often to be found in the back windows of Skodas, but also appeared in older Minis and the more prosaic Fords.

The owners who display these stickers are having a little defensive joke at their own expense, a very British trait. They are saying: You must think I'm a real bore because of the car I drive, but at least I am aware of my deficiency."

At the heart of these apologetic displays is car snobbery, overt and inverted. We are what we drive. in the eyes of many, and car companies shamelessly exploit our weakness for imagery. If we

**DRIVEN TO** DISTRACTION



Barnard

Mercedes, then we shall demonstrate our awareness of the shortcoming with a jokey sticker.

Recently, two items in television programmes have demonstrated that car snobbery runs deep, to the point where one hardly knows testing of the new Skoda Felicia mid-range saloon up against several rivals, including the Vauxhall Vectra and the Audi A4.

The cars' badging was covered with sticky tape and ordinary drivers were invited to look them over (though not drive them). Nearly everyone liked the Skoda, several people said it was the best car of the lot and others put it second only to the Audi. But once the badging was revealed, some of those who had previously said they would buy the Skoda changed their minds. A Skoda? No way.

On another television programme. Top Gear, four "repmobiles" were tested and given marks out of ten in various categories: handling, perfor-mance, comfort, etc. The car that came out on top was the Ford

Mondeo. This was no surprise to me because I own one and I know how good it is.

There are plenty of people however who would no more be seen dead in a Ford than they would in a Skoda (the latter incidentally, is one of the most successful rally cars of all time). The biggest mountain in the range of obstacles carmakers have to cross is not build quality, or speed. comfort or even price: it is image. At various times I have owned a

couple of (second-hand) 7-series BMWs, in the days when the 7series had an elegantly beautiful body. Undoubtedly it was a terrific car with terrific engineering. Now they have the wedged rear end that

makes them look like any other car but I don't doubt the quality is as good as ever.

For every BMW driver who has made a detached judgment. I would bet there are four who have bought a badge. Therein lies the proof that marketing the image works, and BMW are the past masters. But there is an important

rider: selling on image will never work unless the image has first

been built on quality. The image builders also have to to be aware of which names work for them and which against. When BMW bought Rover it was not the Rover name they wanted but the names Rover owned, such as Land Rover and Mini. There are a lot of marques natented to Rover, like-Riley and Morris, which will most likely never be seen again.

So look out for the next-generation Mini: the name Rover will not appear in the marketing, or on the car. The brand image of the word Mini is so strong that it is the only word needed to sell it.

If proper nouns are important, so are adjectives and adverbs. If it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck then surely it is a duck. No: the new BMW touring looks like an estate car and does the job that an estate car is supposed to do. But according to BMW it is not an estate car, because that description has undesirable associations.

Pretentious? Not arf, gov nor. But you can be sure that large numbers of people who would no more drive an estate car than wear brown in town will buy this estate car. Skoda, even under VW's ownership, has a long way to go.

# Drivers fume at car park clamp on kind deeds

Penny-pinching councils have dreamed up a scheme to stop good deeds in their car parks. The plan will stop kind-hearted motorists from passing unexpired parking stickers to other

New machines introduced in towns as far apart as Bristol and Basildon, Thurrock and Wigan require motorists to key in their registration numbers. As well as discouraging generous deeds the machines have caused confusion.

The Transport Research Laboratory quizzed motorists in Wigan using the "registration number" pay-and-display machines and discovered one third had problems obtaining their ticket while two thirds of those questioned were unhap-

py with the system. Electrician David Price, 62. is typical of drivers who have been baffled by the machines' complexity and found they have innocently incurred a parking penalty. He dashed off after putting 60p into a machine in Grays, Essex, and

found he had to pay a £10 fine. He says: "I didn't realise the system had changed. At first I couldn't get a ticket. Then I saw a key pad and I pressed

four for the number of hours I wanted. The ticket came out and I stuck it inmy

windscreen. amazed to find I had a fixed penalty notice when I got back. until another motorist explained the new system. He said loads of people didn't understand it. I telephoned the council to complain but they said I had to pay the line. It rose to £30 after seven days and then £100, so I paid up but I'm furious. How many people read the small print of payand-display machines? When I examined it carefully I found a small piece of paper stuck

inside the machine explaining what to do." According to councils that have installed the machines. passing on unused time for a parking place is not a good deed but a serious offence. reducing the authorities' parking revenue. However, the

#### Jenny Knight

on councils'

confusing rules

Transport Research Laboratory found that councils' revenue from the new machines hardly

The Automobile Association says the system is over complicated and is asking the Department of Transport to stop the spread of machines "which confuse drivers and do not provide any benefits for park-

ing control". Most councils who operate the machines refuse to allow appeals against parking tickets on the basis of mistaken entries or simple confusion. Yet a spokesman for Thurrock Council claims that the system was introduced to help the public: Dozens of local authorities now use the 'registration number machines. We were told that although they wouldn't increase our revenue much, they would reduce the was of queries over parking

"Previously when people got parking tickets they would turn up with a sticker showing

penalues.

the right time and date and say it had fallen on the floor. Now if they turn up which shows

the right time, right date and carries their registration numbers there is no argument. They have a valid ticket and we accept their

But he added that excuses from Mr Price and others like him would not be accepted. Which leaves an unhappy Mr Price, saying: "I paid the right money and didn't fraudulently use someone else's ticket. It's just another way of ripping people off. It's petty, unjust and pointless. It's the sort of irritating measure which drives people to use outof-town shops where parking is free. This new type of machine will penalise people who are in a hurry, or are

preoccupied such as mothers

looking after a couple of

#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

WOMEN SHUN motorcycles as a means of transport. according to AA Insurance. Britain's biggest motoring organisation says of 300 requests for motorbike insurance quotes, just 25 came from shared a bike with a husband or son. A quarter of women bikers own a motorcycle costing between £500 and £600 but most ride 100cc to 125cc machines or mopeds.

ROLLS-ROYCE this week introduced its new chairman. Graham Morris, former sales chief at Rover, who joins the luxury carmaker after a threeyear spell at Audi. Graham will be glad of the rest after commuting weekly from his British home to Audi's German headquarters at Ingolstadt. He flew there and back more than 220 times, leaving home on a Sunday night and returning on Friday. He was only in his new office at Rolls-Royce in Crewe for an hour and 23 minutes, however. before jetting off to Geneva.

■ MIDDLE-AGED executives at the Geneva Motor Show had to sit down and drink a glass of water after hearing news that Sophia Loren, the sex symbol and movie star lusted after by generations of men, is a car fan. Not just cars, specifically good old British Range Rovers. Tom Purves. Rover's sales chief, says the gorgeous, pouting and now somewhat ageing Sophia dined with the company's sales boss in Italy and declared her loyalty to the

Tory MP for Longbridge in Birmingham, now garrulous public relations man at the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, should arrange a getting-to-know-you lunch with his long-time chief executive, Ernie Thompson. At the SMMT's Geneva Motor Show cocktail party, King announced his boss as "the man who needs no introduc-

big off-roader from Solihull.



# Insurers to pay police

ritain's police forces are to receive an unexpected boost in their fight against car crime - from insurance companies. The Association of British Insurers will announce plans later this month to set up a central fund that will be available to help the police

with specific initiatives. The fund, expected to start at a modest £100,000, will provide material help in the shape of vehicles, computers and cash to pay for police overtime. It will contrast with controversial sponsorship schemes that have seen the name of Harrods and Thresher, the drinks retailer, embla-

zoned on police cars.

The launch of the fund follows trial projects including the highly successful Operation Phoenix run by Mersey-side Police's stolen vehicle squad. The operation was made possible by a £10.000 contribution from the ABI to pay for overtime which allowed officers to check an additional number of suspicious cars and lorries and recover £105.000 worth of

Insurance companies had already paid out on the thefts and have now been able to

recover their money. The operation was a useful case study and it was pleasing that goods were recovered as a direct result of our contribution." Tony Baker, the association's deputy director, said. When police forces approached us in the past for help, we sent their requests to individual insurance companies, but that led either to nothing being done or to A new cash fund is set to combat

car criminals, reveals Tony Dawe

duplication because more than one company wanted to help. "It will be more logical to establish a central fund with a list of criteria which projects must meet. The fund could be used, for example, to provide an extra motorbike for a squad, a laptop computer to help co-ordinate a special inquiry or a repeat of Operation

Detective Inspector Mike Barron, head of the 15-man Merseyside squad, was delighted at the success of the operation. "It proved that police stolen-car squads are commercially efficient," he said. "We are dealing with a high value commodity and the more effort we put in, the more goods we can recover.

"The squad costs £400,000 a year to run but last year we recovered more than El million worth of stolen vehicles. Department overtime is cut continually, however, and requests for internal support increase every year. This sort of funding is the only possible way we can enhance our resources."

He used the ABI money to pay for overtime so that officers could track down more 'ringers", stolen cars which have been given the identity of vehicles written off by the insurance companies after accidents. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency forwards details of all applications to reregister written off vehicles to the police but officers do not have the time to check them

WAS INSTALLED AT HALE.

all. Merseyside, for example, received 1,086 reports from the

DVLA last year. Some of the write-offs will legally have been skilfully repaired, but others will have been sold to thieves who have scrapped them after swapping the registration plates, vehicle identification and chassis numbers to stolen cars.

Official police guidelines require forces to check only one in ten of the DVLA reports but Inspector Barron was able to check one in four with the extra money provided by the ABL The result was the recovery of an extra 18 vehicles and eight arrests.
"We were able to look at

more of the names known to the police and suspicious addresses which appeared on the DVLA forms as well as more of the cars which appeared to have been totally wrecked," the inspector added.

is squad's biggest find was an M-registration Volvo lorry tractor unit worth £38,000. They also recovered a stolen Volvo 940 worth £12,000, a Ford Escort and Renault 19, both worth £4,400 and several less expensive cars.

The Merseyside squad has achieved a reputation for its initiatives and is the only one to operate a burn-out scheme. Whenever a car is found burnt-out - and there were 1.800 on Merseyside last year the squad sends an examin-

PILOTING A TOP FUEL FUNNY CAR

GARY PAGE TOOK THE 0-60 MPH

AT Sauta Pod in Buckingha

er to identify the vehicle, which he can do even if all the obvious identification marks have been removed. The police will then be on the look-out for anyone attempting to re-register a car with the details from the burnt-out one.

Inspector Barron is now hoping to capitalise on the success of Operation Phoenix by persuading the insurance industry to support a new operation aimed at catching villains red-handed as they attempt to sell stolen cars.

"We would follow-up suspicious advertisements in the car-trade and local evening papers which asked prospective buyers to call at certain times only, suggesting that the sellers were operating from a callbox or mobile phone." he

"We would also check out cars being offered at unusally low prices. It would only take minutes to identify stolen vehicles and the likelihood of getting immediate results would be high. Yet I can only launch such an operation with the help of outside funds. "I have given the insurance

companies a challenge. We have already delivered on Operation Phoenix and proved that this sort of sponsorship can work. Now I am waiting for them to respond with further investment." However. Baker warned:

There is a degree of suspiciousness in the industry about funding an operation because people believe the police are there to do just that. But if companies are recovering money they might not otherwise have received they must surely see the benefit."

#### AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

LONDON M4 junctions 1-2 and A4. Chiswick area; various week-

end closures. A4 closed between the M4 junction slip roads under the elevated section. Diversions. M4 closed to through-traffic between junctions 1 and 2. (Brentford). Diversions via the A4. A306 Hammersmith Bridge

A304 Fulham Broadway closed both ways between Harwood Road and Barclay Road. A3 Kingston Bypass; north-bound lane closed between Shannon Corner (A298) and Coombe Lane junction (A238).

M1 junction 2 Hendon area; major roadworks. A406 Upper Edmonton; major A3212 Westminster Bridge closed overnight and at week-

A232 Wallington; roadworks around junction with Manor A11 Woodford Green; single-

lane traffic at junction with Bunces Lane. SOUTH-EAST M40 junctions 1a-2; roadworks with contraflow. A127 East Hornden area;

contraflow and 40mph limit. M27 junctions 8-1 M2 junction 5-6; inside lane hard shoulder closed

both directions. M25 junction 2 Dartford; sure with various off-peak and overnight lane closures.

M25 junction 6-10; lane closures both ways between Godstone and the A3. A3 near Guildford: Hogs Back (A31), roadworks.

A259 Bognor Regis; temporary SOUTH WEST M5 junctions 8-9; contraflow across Avonmouth Bridge —

50mph limit. A389, Bodmin; triple mini-roundabouts and roadworks. A30 north of Bodmin; contraflow with 50mph limit. A35 Christchurch bypass; lane closure between Fountain Way and Stony Lane Roundabout. M5 junction 13; only one lane open at roundabout junction

with the A419. A31 Ringwood; contraflow. M5 junction 26-27; lane closed in both directions. M5 junction 23-22: lane MIDLANDS AND EAST

A1 Alconbury; one lane northbound. A1139 Peterborough; 50mph

limit at junction with the A605. A6 near M1 junction 24; contraflow in both directions. A50 Glenfield Carriageway; one lane outbound. Station Road closed at A50 junction. A1064 Acle Way Bridge; maintenance. A43; 10mph convoy-system and the Little Oakley turning. A5 near M6 junction 12; closed

both ways. A500 Stoke area, contraflow. A14; contraflow between Barrow Bottom and Higham. works 9am to 5pm.

A41 temporary Bilston Road at the Cana Bridge. A34 Birmingham; roadworks on Stratford Road. M5 junction 2; closing the southbound entry and north-

NORTH M6 junctions 37-38; contratiow both directions and 50mph

A1M junction 63; 50mph A6 Hazel Grove; northbound lane diosures. M63 junction 10; southbound

entry slip closed. M63 junctions 11-12, 50mph junctions 25-27; 50mph

A585 roadworks near M55 junction. M53 junction 2; only one lane open each way. A19 Middlesbrough area; one lane open each way. M1 junctions 34-35; two lanes

M1 junction 47; lane closures and speed restrictions. A19 Moor Farm SCOTLAND Road; 10mph limit.

A96 Bridge of Don; roadworks. M8 junction 2; lane closures. Corstorphine Road; lane closures off-peak. A701 Burdiehouse Road; contraflow off-peak. A92 Tay Road Bridge; lane

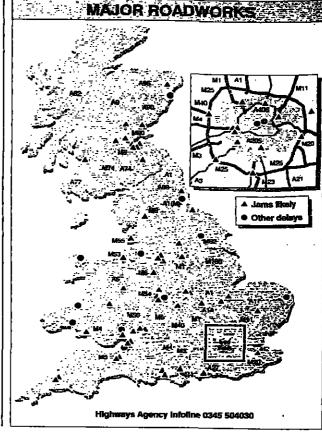
closures Southbound. M80 junction 5; contraflow A923, Bothwell Street, Duntermline: roadworks.

contraflow. between Dalnachardoch and Dalnaspidal, roadworks with lane restrictions in both

A77 Symington; southbound lane closure. WALES A482 Upper Aberaeron Bridge on South Road closed. A48 Carmarthen; temporary

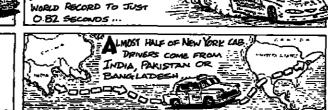
lights and lane restrictions. A5025 City Dulas; one-way system over temporary bridge. A48 between Langstone and Penhow; temporary lights. A48 Hill Street, Lydney; temporary lights. A44 between Llangurig and Eisteddfa Gurig; temporary

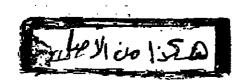
Pont Sychcoed, Cyfronydd; temporary lights. Swansea, A4067 Mumbles Road; roadworks. A472 Pontypool; contraflow between Pontymoile and the Heron Roundabout.



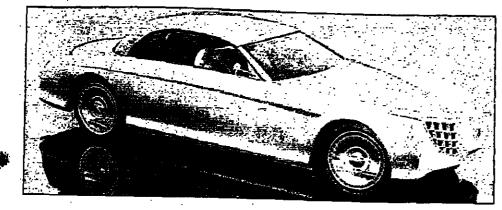


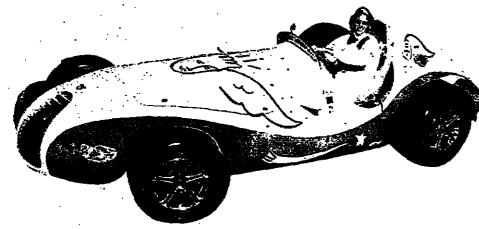
HAVING NEVER BEFORE CONTESTED A RALLY, JENNY CARIOU IS TACKUNG THE 1997 Paris-Pering — in a Morris Minior BRITAINS FIRST PETROL PUMP





In our PC world, sybaritic outrageousness is only a 'concept'. But there was plenty at Geneva, says Vaughan Freeman







Phaeton, main picture and top, harks back to azz-age self indulgence. But Rinspeed's single-seat Mono Ego, bove, takes the prize for exuberance. Bertone's 4x4 sports utility design for Alfa Romeo is both dramatic and



# Chrysler's tempting Phaeton

orgeous, gold, gigantic and glittering. Chrysler's way-over-the-top F. Scott Fitzgerald's super-rich society adventurer Jay Gatsby would have felt perfectly at home in. It's the sort of car that Cary Grant might have been chauffeured in to pre-war Hollywood premieres.

Flying straight in the face of today's motoring wisdom that smaller is better. Chrysler has opted for the bigger, biggest, best approach with its outrageous and stunning Phaeton show car.

At this week's Geneva Motor Show, European manufacturers were vying with each other to cram many seats as possible into the shortest, smallest, narrowest cars, with Mercedes setting the pace with its new A-class.

Undaunted by tediously unglam-orous, politically correct — if commercially and politically relevant -considerations, Chrysler has produced a concept car which throws all notions of producing an automo-

. . .

1.0905KE

tive version of Dr Who's Tardis into the rubbish bin.

The Phaeton eschews recyclable plastics and ultra-lightweight and recycled materials. Instead, it is a glearning 18ft of highly buffed chrome, mirror-like steel wheels and deeply plush leather. More than 6ft wide, the Phaeton makes no concessions to crowded roads, and it seats just four - though inclub-class comfort, cossetted in white leather-shrouded seats as big as sofas. Instead of experimenting with battery power, fuel cells or miniscule petrol or diesel engines, Detroit Motor Town route and is powered by a vast petrol engine that would keep a small oil refinery in business non-stop. Under the bonnet is a 5.4-litre, V12 engine with a splendid 48 valves producing an enormous 425 brake horse power.

There are not one but two windscreens, one in the usual place at the front and another retractable

screen ahead of the rear-seat passengers, so that when the car's roof is stowed invisibly away, the people in the back can enjoy their open-top motoring without the inconve-nience of the slipstream upsetting their carefully coiffed hair.

Chrysler is more than happy to admit that the inspiration for the Phaeton is drawn from half a century ago, from its 1940 Newport, a vehicle which was used during the wartime era for conveying the rich and famous in supreme comfort - and which strangely abandoned its stately image to be the 500 race.

True, Chrysler, like other manufacturers, has also developed its concept mini cars to cash in on the trend towards ever more sophisticated yet smaller cars. Even so, with cars like the Dodge Viper and the Prowler, Chrysler has made a habit of showing off concept cars at motor shows, only to turn them into road-going production vehicles within a matter of years. Could that mean the Phaeton will one day no longer be a dream car but a

om Gale, Chrysler's product development executive vice president, believes that, just as car makers can exploit the development of niche markets in the small-car sectors, so there will always be a place for specialist big cars too. Gale says: "I don't think that, in

general terms, cars like the Phaeton The Phaeton concept does suggest. though, that we like to look at styling icons, to produce vehicles that are larger than life. Concepts like the Phaeton enable us to elevate our thinking and our

The Phaeton itself is a very serious design statement as well as looking back to the past. It is a matter of finding things that are significant and memorable, and which customers relate to. As for big cars themselves, I think there are times when it is worthwhile considering that, just because larger vehicles are not consistent with the direction that most modern vehicles in general are taking, that doesn't mean that there will never again be people able to afford

want things that are unique." Gale says it is unlikely that the Phaeton would ever take to the road in its present shape without considis likely that many of the details in the car - such as the exquisite satin chrome used on the dashboard, the huge dials, a clock and a speedometer set into the back of the car's central divide so that the rear

something that is unique. People

passengers know what is going on. even the car's badges - could well find themselves built into future

The Phaeton embodies an American motoring tradition and brings it to life once again, an era of huge cars, unfettered by the constraints of tiny garages in semi-detached homes, of cramped inner-city parking spaces, or the modern-day guilt that attaches to a car that is clearly

expensive and expansive.

then flaunted it.

With its two-tone champagnepearl colouring, huge grille, and 22-inch highly polished wheels Phaeton is no such shrinking violet and recognisably harks back to the days when the wild, the beautiful and the rich not only had money to

Given today's climate of automotive political correctness, isn't the Phaeton a little out of touch? Design director Neil Walling argues it is not: "With Phaeton we expanded the use of today's convertible by giving it four doors and two windshields. We took an elegant design that was originally

intended for the wealthy and we created a practical, contemporary convertible."

Still, designers are allowed to run riot occasionally — especially at a motor show, and at Geneva all the best were there — from Pininfarina, which styled Peugeot's glorious 406 coupé, to Bertone, which showed off a dramatic new 4x4, badged and grilled as an Alfa Romeo. The wheelbase is mid-range so the Alfa-Bertone sports utility is not long though tall.

Will it go into production? Well, Alfa bosses were touting the idea that they would like to have distinct sports and leisure vehicle ranges, so Bertone's concept might have set

But the award for most outrageous car went to Rinspeed with its evocation of classic single-seat race cars, the Mono Ego. As long as a Mercedes S-class and powered by a 32-valve, 4.6-litre V8, the Rinspeed will rocket to 62mph in 4.8 seconds and on to 160mph. Should be a bit of a struggle finding a place for the





Buy a sensibly priced Berlingo, left, and the whole family's laughing. The wood-veneered Wagon R might leave everyone else in fits, however

# Invasion of the people-movers

ou bought the surfboard and the mountain bike - but now you need the electric drill and a saw. Forget chrome and leather. Suzuki has opted for the MFI look by putting skirting boards on its bizarre new vehicle.

Just to underline the extremes of modern car design. the five-door Wagon R+ was unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show apparently to appeal to that alien species who not only have time to drive but to windsurf, ski, bicycle - anything involving Lycra.

To describe Suzuki's choice of colour schemes for its new. little vehicle as ... well, imaginative, would be understatement, but British eyes welled when the wraps came off the wood dad version. Memories of the old Morris 1000 Traveller leapt into some minds: hours of trying to get self-assembly wardrobes to stand up straight into others. Surely, only the hardiest sense of humour would allow a British driver to park the woody Wagon R+ in the drive. Still, the wood finish was tasteful by comparison with

Get an MPV. Get a lifestyle. Get the message?

Vaughan Freeman and Kevin Eason see the future

the all-white Sport version and the Cruiser, which included astonishingly white interiors. The 1-litre Wagon R+ - just lift long - is the small-scale end of a range of peoplemovers intesting Europe's showrooms. Everybody is making a multi-purpose, sitwhere-you-like, put-anythingin-it vehicle - and if they aren't, they will.

According to carmakers the world over, owning a saloon or estate is not enough because you want to satisfy your lifestyle. And even if you don't have a family, you might want a versatile vehicle that has between one and seven seats and a big load-space, but which drives like a car, something off-roaders do not do.

Ten years ago, people carri-ers took just 10 per cent of sales, but that is forecast to double by 2005 as our lifestyles flourish, we don our wetsuits and ski jackets and head happily off into the sunset, our families chirruping contented-

ly in seats capable of being transformed into configurations from aircraft-style rows to four-place card tables.

Which is why Citroen is jumping into the market next spring with its oddly-named Berlingo Multispace.

Refreshingly - and unlike much of the competition though - it will be relatively cheap at less than £13,000. Citroen has decided that it will sell a basic, one-choice vehicle: just three metallic colours with co-ordinated interiors to pick from and one package of equipment. That policy of simplicity will allow Citroen to maintain bargain-basement prices at a time when a lot of people-carriers are demanding some executive car-style prices and should help make the Berlingo pretty popular

throughout Europe. Actually, the Multispace is a converted version of the "Van of the Year" Berlingo. You will not be surprised to discover that its humble origins as a

commercial vehicle are submerged in the sales blurb by a rosier picture of a "lifestyle vehicle that will appeal to the growing band of fun-seekers. Mountain bikes, scuba gear. surf-boards and all manner of outdoor leisure equipment, together with five adults, can be

accommodated." Yawn. However, the Berlingo does offer the boot space of a Citroën XM in a small package, powered by 1.4-litre petrol or 1.0 diesel engines. With huge windows all round, it also features an electric sunroof that slides the whole length of the vehicle so that those in the back as well as the front can have their hair windtousled.

The five-door Multispace can seat five, along with 300kg of Juggage, and, says Citroen, can trundle around town just as well as cruise on the motorways.

Berlingo owners might be passed on the motorway though by yet another new

vehicle from Mercedes-Benz. The Germans are getting ready to launch their "allactivity vehicle", the M-class. on to the market in the United States late this year and the UK in 1998. M-class will also be a seven-

seater but capable of going offmad too - more a Range Rover eater than a Berlingo beater - and will probably cost top Land Rover prices in Europe even though it is being made at a new plant in America. M-class wll also have every latest gadget, from anti-lock brakes to anti-skid technology, plus a simple push-button low-ratio gearbox for driving off-road.

Power comes from Merc's new 3.2-litre V6, an engine which has two spark plugs per cylinder which, Mercedes' engineers say, will mean lower exhaust emissions and better fuel economy, even though the vehicle is big and bulky.

Inevitably, the target audience for drivers of this vehicle will have one attribute sought by carmakers above all others - a lifestyle, you know those scuba-diving, biking, abseiling, sky-diving...

## prize mud-slinging pair Tony Dawe on

olly and Alan Grif-fiths had a "wonder-. 🗸 🗘 ful time" up to their axles in mud last weekend: their prize for winning the Car weekend drive 97 off-road competition. We completed 91.3 miles, a

lot of them wading through water and charging up and down hills. It was nice to get somebody else's Land Rover dirty," Alan joked afterwards. The couple were provided with a Land Rover Discovery by Marshalls of Peterborough as part of their prize entry to Midland Auto Trader four-

wheel-drive day. "The vehicle amazed us with what it could do. One minute we were going down into a being sent the details by their gully with no apparent way out and then suddenly we

were clear," Alan said. The only thing which defeated us was the steepest hillclimb, which was like trying to get up the side of the canyon. It was well chewed up by the time we reached it. We got so far and had to give up, but those who did it were in very professional rally cars with heavy duty tyres and roll bars. "We scored 317 points and since the winner only got 375



our winners'

Unclean fun with our

we think we did pretty well, especially as it was the first

time we had entered a test like Stephen Barrett and Christopher Gedney of Boston. Lines, took the first prize, with Julie Loades and Jaqueline McDonald of Peterborough

claiming the Car 97 award. Molly and Alan, of Harmer Hill, Shrewsbury, only en-tered our competition after the Army. They have owned Land Rovers for the last 25 years but never entered them in rallies. Alan recently retired from the grain trade.

Last Saturday's event seemed designed to put only a little strain on the Griffiths' marriage; Alan was forced to drive one section blindfolded, guided only by instructions from his wife. For another test, Alan had to

drive into a box formed of traffic cones with a trailer hitched to the Land Rover, and then Janet was required to reverse out. "She did it without getting any penalty points." Alan said proudly.



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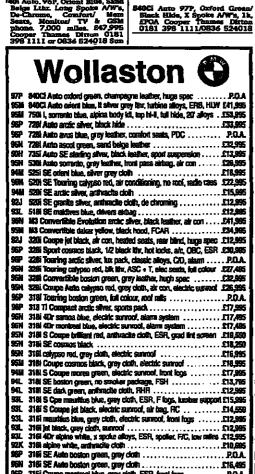
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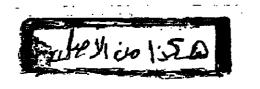
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Stuart Birch drives a rare Sheerline — Austin's regally cheap rationing-era bid for the luxury market

# Austin-tatious: austere Britain's bargain Bentley

Austin Sheerline. From its massive Lucas Pl00 headlamps to its semirazor-edged boot, the Sheerline looks the part. And alphabetically it even beats the Bentley's flying-B radiator mascot — the Austin has a flying A.

Launched 50 years ago, the Al25 Sheerline was Austin's cut-price answer to the regal set: Rolls-Royce, Bentley, and Daimler, It, too, pampered the privileged in a world of leather and walnut, it had wings that curied and flowed like Hawaiian breakers, it was big, it was handsome... but it was powered by a 4-litre engine and its chassis was said to be the equivalent of railway lines.

Few who bought such cars needed to know about that, though. The Sheerline looked the part and it was, in today's sales-speak, "ag-gressively priced". Originally the car had a basic price of £1,000. But later in 1947, double purchase tax was imposed on cars of that price and above. So Austin lopped a pound off it and thumbed its corporate nose at the Treasury.

The Sheerline looked totally British, although it was designed by Italian-born Dick Burzi. "Really it was a crib of Bentley design," says Ian Coombes, secretary of the Austin Sheerline and Princess Club, whose 1948 model is possibly the world's oldest working example. "Leonard Lord, who was managing director of Austin in 1947, had used a Bentley during the Second World War. He wanted Austin to create something like it and they set to work. Soon after the war, he bought a new Bentley MKVI, took it to the factory, and told his people that was just what he had in mind, so they'd better make one that looked similar but at less than half the Bentley's price." Lord eventually opted to create



Proud Duncan Greig with his restored white, 1951 Sheerline

not one but two prestige cars on the same chassis. They were mechani-cally similar and apparent rivals. But while the Sheerline had a prewar look, the Austin AI35 Princess, with body by Vanden Plas, had more modern styling with headlamps faired into the wings. The saloon Princess was not particularly successful, although the limousine version remained in production for more than 20 years.

The Sheerline, with its heavy headlamped gravitas, proved a splendid carriage for British ambassadors. As a Rolls-Royce and Bentley price-beater, it was just what the austerity-stricken Foreign Office ordered. Its chrome sparkled magnificently beneath the setting sun of Empire, and, provided onlookers didn't happen to have a copy of the 1947 Guide to Posh Cars in their pockets, the big Austin could pass itself off as thoroughly

About 8,000 Sheerlines were built between 1947 and 1954. In November, 1947, it acquired Royal



Philip were given one by Austin as a wedding present. Around Britain, the Sheerline found favour as a mayoral carriage. It was also built as a hearse, an ambulance, a longwheelbase limousine, a timbered estate car called the Wentworth, and even a van — the Belfast Telegraph had four. The weirdest

version, but that, like so many efforts to produce gas turbine cars, was abandoned as impractical.

Very few Sheerlines survive. "We have about 60 registered with the Club," says Coombes. "About 25 are currently roadworthy, but I'm sure there are many not known to us: thousands were exported. In

Queen Juliana of The Netherlands had a convertible built on a Sheerline chassis. It was last heard of in the USA — that's the one we really want to find."

Rather nearer home is a Sheerline which the club knows all about, which is owned by Duncan Greig. When he was 16, Duncan, now 43, fell in love with a Sheerline. He bought it for £65 even though he was too young to drive: "I just had to have it," he says. "It needed restoring and I started the work, but it was too much for me then. Sadly, it went to a breaker. But I never forgot that car. My ambition was to buy another but it took me nearly 20 years."

Today, Duncan's white, 1951 Sheerline is almost fully restored and looks magnificent. "I don't know how many hours I have spent working on the car but it's a lot. I just learnt how to do it as I went along," he adds. "I do all the work on the Sheerline myself, except for the upholstery and wood trim -I'm about to spend £450 on that." Everything works perfectly, even

the built-in hydraulic self-jacking system. The commanding driving position sits behind a vast steering wheel and, of course, the seats are leather, the dashboard is walnut veneer and even the ashtray covers

We have lift-off: The Sheerline's luxury specifications featured a hydraulic self-jacking system

مكذا من الإجليد

are veneered. The Sheerline has a four-speed gearbox with steering-column gearchange, with first and second furthest from the driver, which feels unnatural but works well enough. I pressed the starter button of this near two-ton leviathan. released the umbrella-style handbrake and we moved off, first gear whining, the exhaust sighing. Back in the 1950s, all BBC sound effects of cars driving away were just like

"He'll start away in top gear if you ask him to," says Duncan. The vague, low-geared steering was not as heavy as I had feared, but any aircraft-carrier captain would feel an affinity with the turning circle and the bonnet that stretches ahead like a flight deck.

In fact, considering its size, weight and age, the Sheerline is

reasonably agile except when turning at low speed. The ride was good (this was the first Austin to have independent front suspension) and, surprisingly, the road-holding inspired confidence, although everything is done relatively sedately. As speed reached 60mph, the wind started to roar; it is said that turning the giant headlamps around adds 4mph to the Sheer-

line's top speed. "On a run, he'll do ló to 17 miles to the gallon, around town, about 10 to 12 mpg on leaded," reassures Duncan.

I started to enjoy this big, stately car, sweeping along narrow lanes, oncoming traffic slowing and shuffling towards the side of the road, drivers and passengers staring uncomprehendingly and mouthing. "When there" ing, "What's that?"

My wave of thanks may have looked just a shade imperious, but what the hell - it's that sort of car, and they don't know there's a truck engine beneath that mighty bonnet, and a pair of railway lines holding

# The drive they'll use to win

ne of the advantages of entering our quest to find Britain's best company car driver is the opportunity to try out, albeit briefly, the latest Nissan Primera SRi, a model aimed specifically at the working motorist who drives a high

number of miles every year. The Primera is one of those cars that is always with us; Nissan has refined and updated the model over the years and now offers a wide range, from the basic 1.6-litre to the newly introduced sporty GT version. But the SRI is likely to be the favourite of the longdistance "user chooser" the category into which most of our Times/Lease Plan compet-

In five-door hatchback or four-door saloon style it offers a high, but thoroughly practical, specification and its chassis was completely revised when the model was revamped last year.

The most immediately noticeable result is much greater interior space, which gives the driver a real feeling of getting "a lot of car for your money". even before the engine is fired up. The sports seats give support in all the right places and offer lumbar adjustment. an essential for the highmileage motorist.

The leather steering wheel, prominent rev-counter dial and controls that come readily to hand in the wrap-around cockpit all combine to suggest that it might live up to that driver's car" image with which it was launched.

External body styling is more aerodynamic than the previous model, and the most obvious signs of the SRi's performance are a large body-

Times/Lease Plan company drivers' competition car

handled by the five-speed

coloured spoiler and alloy But these are only skin-deep signs. It is the chassis revisions which do most to justify the label. The SRi has sports-

tuned suspension for extra grip in all conditions and precise handling. This provides a significant advantage at any time, but it is especially valuable in the kind of manouevring test which forms part of our competition. That test is far from a party

piece to enable our contestants to show off. It is based on the kind of everyday parking and turning situations that any driver might encounter, the only addition being that of a ball and saucer on the bonnet to monitor how smoothly these

movements can be performed. On the road, the suspension and handling of the car provide the driver with the right combination of "road feel" and comfort to exploit its performance in any conditions.

uring its develop-ment, the car was subjected to thousands of miles of testing on roads throughout Belgium and France, many specifically chosen for their rough surfaces. After that sort of test, says Nissan, it should be able to put up with anything to be tound in Britain.

The engine that provides all the performance is a typically quiet Nissan powerplant, a lovalve, 2-litre fuel-injected unit which produces 128 brake horsepower. The power comes in a smooth curve and is easily

Alan Copps checks out the latest Nissan Primera, our

manual gearbox. Drive hard, and the car responds in an impressively sporty manner, but if you're on the motorway it will cruise in relaxed style, giving the feel that it would run happily all day, the sort of thing the

company car driver seeks. Given Nissan's reputation for build quality and reliability, the Primera SRi is likely to find plenty of support among

those 30 to 40-year-old "user choosers" who are expected to be its main buyers. Nissan estimates that more than 80 per cent of all new Primeras will be bought with cash from company coffers.

There couldn't be a better opportunity to try the car than to enter The Times/Lease Plan Company Car Driver of the Year competition. The Primera SRi will be used for all the road driving and for the

manouevring tests in each heat. All you need to enter is to raise a team of three from your company and get the endorsement of your fleet manager. Then fill in the form. The first prize is an ex-

penses-paid trip to the Portuguese Grand Prix at Estoril on October 26, the culmination of the 1997 season. The team prize - driver training for 12 people from the winning fleet is provided by Drive Tech, one of Britain's leading driving specialists, which organises the tests at each heat. The finals are at the Silverstone Driving Centre.



Most obvious signs of the SRi's performance are a large spoiler and alloy wheels

#### THE TIMES Lease Plan 🗖 Company Car Driver

# **Entry Form**

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## About your company

I	Nature	e of business:		Number of employees			Number of company cars:			
<ul> <li>Nominated drivers</li> </ul>							<ul><li>Which</li></ul>	venue?		
		Surname	Forename	Job title	Age	Points on licence (max 3)	Please select your 1s of regional heat (indi	t and 2nd choice location cate 1 or 2 in box):		
	1						Elstree, Herts	Friday, 25 April		

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#### Competition rules

The closing date for entries is March 28 1997. Drivers must be 24 years of age or over to enter. Only corporate entries will be accepted. Drivers must be nominated by the director or senior manager responsible for the company car fleet. Divers must be nominated in teams of three. The entrant may also nominate himself/herself as part of the teams. Companies can only enter one team. Competitors must drive a company car or vehicle as part of their remuneration package. Qualification for the team/company award will be dependent upon a written test to be completed by the entrant at that team's regional heat. Employees of Lease Ptan, DriveTech, Nissan, News International and the Birkdale Group are not permitted to enter. In the spirit of the competition, competitors who reached the final in two previous consecutive years, specialist organisations such as driver training companies, police, the armed forces and the like are not permitted to enter. A place in the regional heats will be confirmed in writing at least ten days prior to the heat. In the event of over-subscription, qualification to the regional heats will be judged through a random driver telephone questionnaire. If the team does not qualify the entrant will be informed in writing prior to the heat. Feedback on each driver's performance will be available after the competition. The reserve driver will be called upon at the regional heat should one of the first three drivers be unable to compete. In the event of a finalist not being able to compete in the final, the next highest scoring driver from the regional heats will be invited to compete in their place. The prize for the winner will be a special trip for two to the Portuguese Grand Pnx. The team/company pnze will be a driver training programme for 12 employees and the use of a san vehicle for three months. Cash alternatives are not available. The judge's decision is final.

#### /hich venue?

select your 1st and 2nd choice location/date onal heat (indicate 1 or 2 in box):

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Macclesfield, Cheshire	Friday, 9 May	
Bracknell, Berks	Friday, 16 May	

Nottingham Friday, 30 May

Friday, 6 June Gatwick, Surrey Friday, 13 June

Coventry

You must ensure that entrant and nominated drivers are able for both first and second choice dates and for the final at Silverstone on Fnday, 4 July 1997. Initial qualification may be by telephone questionnaire. Entrants

and drivers will be contacted on an individual basis.

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Strong seller is replaced

## Citroën gives AX final axe

CITROEN'S LITTLE AX is bidding its farewell with an on-the-road price of £6,195.

The car has been the mainstay of Citroen's small-car range for a decade, but now bows out as the Saxo chalks up record sales. The last AX comes with

sunroof, stereo, metallic paint, sports seats and new trim plus a year's free insurance for the right buyers who get their order in before April.

Sales of the car in the UK passed the 200,000 mark, making the AX one of the nation's most popular superminis, though the Saxo now threatens to outsell it.

The exit of the AX comes as Citroen introduces price rises of an average 1.6 per cent across the range. The three-door Saxo I.IX and I.ISX escape the increase until the end of March, but every model in the range now comes with on-the-road pricing.

■ BAD NEWS for prospective Fiat owners, too: prices are up an average 1.7 per cent, excluding the Punto range which remains unchanged, and the recently announced Marea models. Fiat's cars now start with the Cinquecento S at £6,502 on the road and rise to £20,726 for the much-praised Ulysse people-carrier.

# Civic: now with added snarl **ROAD TEST**

■ NO CAR NAME implies more oncrous respectability than "Civic". Ian Morton writes. Honda's medium saloon is the epitome of solid citizenship on wheels.

All the more surprising therefore to discover that this worthy Wiltshire-built range is moving into a sector that has not previously been associated with the marque: the wolf in sheep's clothing.

For the new five-door versions — unveiled at this week's Geneva Motor Show — are set to include an unprecedented high-performance flagship. Under its bonnet lies a

169bhp engine that revs beyoud \$000rpm, whips to 60 mph from rest in about 8 seconds and only runs out of puff as it approaches 140 mph. Unashamedly aimed at the enthusiastic driver and the hot-shot employee whose achievements deserve a special reward, this is nothing less than the most powerful 1.8 saloon now on the market. At

Civic incorporates a makeover that nods deferentially to Audi. The car's revised dimensional subtleties are supposed to make it look "more European".

the front, the new five-door

Most apparent to the Honda-watcher may be the badge, which features a bolder H, displayed without encir-

■ IF YOU CAN stand the jokes

and have a highly tuned sense of

humour then you can own a Skoda

Estelle, which is a highly dependable car, reports CAP Black Book.

The Estelle is as tough as it is

cheap, but it is also crude, and it

lacks the sophistication brought to

the Czech manufacturer by new

owner, Volkswagen, Vaughan

Freeman writes. As a result, the

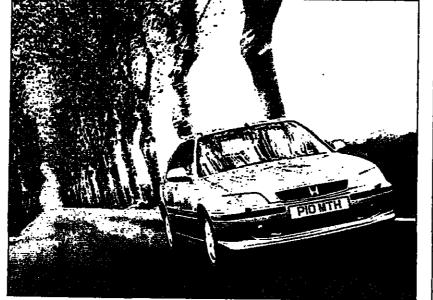
Estelle suffers badly from heavy

A workmanlike design, the Es-

telle can be run on loose change; the

Estelle 120L and the Rapid 135

Coupé are outstanding value. With



Design aims to look more European, but the performance is the surprise

cling chrome. This is the face of luture Honda cars.

Yet overall the five door. whether in this performance version, or with existing 1.4, 1.5 or 1.6-litre petrol engines, or the newly available 20 turbo-diesel, remains unmistakeably a Swindon-built Civic. Prices will span from £11,000-£17,000.

If the I.8 VTi performance figures impress, the car also sounds the part. While variable-valve technology gives this four-cylinder unit the free-revving of a Vo, its

handling.

**FORECOURT** 

the engine located Porsche-like in

the rear, there are many advocates

of the Estelle who praise it for fun

car with average mileage costs around £1,000. Cars sold privately

are cheapest, and cars from 1987

onwards have a five-speed gearbox.

Avoid pre-87 bangers or finance-

house repossessions. Watch out for

blue smoke from worn cylinder

heads, blocked radiators, broken

interior switches - and rust.

Best buy is the 120: a 1990 H-plate

song is something else. Though never loud, it accelerates with a snarl and hurries with a blare.

At UK motorway cruising speeds, realistically 85-ish these days, the engine note is dense and likely to be wearing on a long journey.
This is the only performance

penalty, for a thoughtful revision of suspension geometry and the very obviously enhanced body rigidity together provide one of the most satisfying compromises now avail-

Engine: DOHC four-cylinder 1.797cc with variable valve timing. producing 169bhp at 7,600rpm.

HONDA CIVIC 1.8 VTI

Performance: 0-60 mph in 8.2 seconds, max speed 139mph.

Economy: urban cycle 25.0mpg. extra-urban 38.2 mpg, combined

Specification: includes electric windows and door mirrors, leather and fabric seats, leather steering wheel, maplewood trim inserts. interchangeable three-level audio options, ABS brakes, torque-sensitive limited-slip diff, twin airbags and belt pre-tensioners, electric sunroof, air conditioning.

Price: in the region of £17,000.

There is just the right

amount of weight in the

steering to make the driver

confident of the placement of

the front end: the car clings

confidently through fast

hends both tight and sweep-

ing, and it exudes rock-solid

stability while haring down

Yet the levels of comfort

remain remarkably high.

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are soaked up by the suspen-

sion at all speeds with very

In fact, were the LS VTi

little movement or noise.

the straights.

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down on safety to reduce head injuries

among drivers and passengers in car

crashes. The company will soon put on sale a new airbag, hidden in the roof lining, which drops within 25 thou-

Drivers and passengers might be

protected from frontal crashes by

steering column and dashboard bags,

but they are often thrown against the

roof and windows, and across the

cabin, causing massive injuries.

sandths of a second after an impact.

#### never to escape to the open road and spin its engine beyond 4,000rpm, it could live out its entire life in quier respectability in the accepted Civic tradition, and the undemanding owner in Budleigh Salterton might never realise what sort of car they had sitting outside the bungalow.

Lastly, for those still inclined to baulk at a Japanese name, 90 per cent of the content of Swindon Civics is now sourced in Europe, and this will be up to 93 per cent by

the middle of next year.



Side bags stash in the roof lining

But the new "curtain" system protects heads from buffeting, with the bags dropping from the roof to form a soft barrier between the body and the tough materials in the car's structure designed to absorb the impact.

BENTLEY Turbo R 87

£20,950.

Tel: 01865 882789

Turbo R

£45,000.



VW SCHOCCO

Styled by Italian automotive artist Gluglaro, the Scirocco was launched in the early 1970s and helped breathe new life into the German manufacturer. Borrowing heavily from the MkI Golf, the Scirocco three-door sports coupe originally used 1.5, 1,6 and 1.8-fitre petrol engines. The MkII armed in 1981 and the GT was launched in 1984. Despite the success of the VW Golf GTI, the Scirocco still sold around 80,000 in the UK and 1 million worldwide. Discontinued in 1992.



Fin to drive and sortof-good looks in a
Saturday Night Fever
way. Although based
on the robust Golf, prices are
generally significantly lower than
equivalent Golf GTIs, since the
Schood has never been

Leg and headroom in particularly short supply in the rear. Insurance can be high on newer cars. Early cars now very old and should be checked for corrosion. Power steering is also a restry while reservery vision.

Cars with clutch problems or noisy transmissions which will prove very costly to put right. Watch for oil leaks and for oil leaking on to the alternator from cylinder head gasket failure. Beware too rusting front discs and sticking front brake calipers causing brakes to bind.

INSURANCE

old professional male, living in Winchester with full no claims, £181

vvarchester with full no claims, £181 a year fully comprehensive white a similar temale pays £171. A 22-year old male, with one year no claims, living in south London pays £955, a similar formale £791.

Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1988 1.8GTX costs a 55-ye



SAFETY
The Scirocco is based on the VW Golf, which consistently does well in the Department of Transport safety ratings, marked above average and on a par with contemporary cars such as the Volvo 300, Vauxhall Astra and Honda Civic.

REPLACEMENT
PARTS
(Prices include VAT);
cylinder head £275;
tylinder head £275;
tylinder head £275;
tylinder head £275;
shock absorber £26; rear shock
absorber £20; front brakepads
£32 (pair); radiator £40; head
asket £20; wester numo £25; gasket £20; water pump £25; alternator £70, carburettor £170.

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Mkl cars sell for under
£1,000 and pre-1985
Mkll for under £1,500. Expect to pay £2,500 for a 1988 1.8GTX, £3,325 for 1990 G-reg 1.8GT, £4,000 for a 1991 H-reg 1.8GT, £5,100 for a 1992 K-reg 1.8GT, and £4,200 for a 1991



OVERALL: The Scirocco is easy to keep on the road because of its 10,000 mite service intervals and parts from the Golf and Passat cars. Used examples heve rarely been driven as hard as their Golf GTI counterparts and with so many sold in Britain there should be plenty of cared-for cos around. Fun, nice looking, and economical.

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SATURDAY MARCH 8 1997



Despite its awesomely sized fuel tank, the BMW 850 proved a perfect mount for seeing Cape Town's many beauty spots and coping with its chaotic traffic conditions

t felt like the night before Christmas. If I went to bed early, tomorrow would come quicker, and then I would get to spend ten days touring superb scenery on a flash new motorcycle. What made it even better was the fact that I was to collect the silver R850R at the BMW Pavilion on South Africa's Cape Town waterfront — in February nobody really wants to be riding motorbikes on

England's icy roads. In Cape Town

it was a glorious 28C. While the bike was intimidating to look at — the enormous angular petrol tank gives the impression of awesome size - it was an almost perfect fit, and the gentle sound of the boxer engine gave no hint of the power at my disposal. My only gripe was that my fingers had trouble reaching the indicator switches, leading to a few startled lurches as I involuntarily opened the throttle or shut it down while trying to indicate.

I put it down to teething trouble, and headed for Cape Point, 30 miles away, where the Atlantic and Indian oceans meet in a line of spume that stretches towards the

# Boxer fits the Cape

My plan was to make a round trip to see as much of Cape Town and its environs as possible. I had made the journey before, but never with the advantages of two wheels. So, with the imposing front face of Table Mountain to my right, I headed east towards False Bay and straight into a traffic jam. It was the J&B Met, the year's biggest horseracing event, and the world wanted to be there. But the BMW and I sped through it and 30 minutes later I was at what felt like the edge of the continent (it's not: the southernmost tip of Africa is 180 miles away, at Cape Agulhas).

The Boxer was a gentleman, most forgiving of its novice rider. It took a while to get used to handling the machine, mainly because I felt like a fly on a rhinoceros. The machine is. in fact, quite streamlined in design; a combination of Nineties chic and retro styling with raised handlebars, chrome headlight and a user-friendly instrument panel which includes a handy

Cape Town, slamming into unsus-BMW R850R pecting riders as they round cor-

ners on the contour-hugging roads that circle the peninsula. You never

know which direction it's going to

come from, and a sudden gust can

have you heading for the pavement

and an unplanned airborne jour-

The BMW's perspex visor, remi-

niscent of a police riot-shield, deflects the head-on wind effect-

ively, but only the solid weight and

roadholding of the bike keeps you

upright and heading in the right

direction when taken by surprise

Cape Town is a splendid place.

iam-packed with breathtaking

scenery, but it's wise to keep your

eves not only on the winding roads

but also on other road users. South

African drivers are notoriously

cavalier, and what with the virtual

collapse of traffic control in Cape

Town, and cows grazing on the

verges of dual-carriageway nat-

ney 150 metres downwards.

from the side.

Engine: 848cc horizontally opposed twin producing 70bhp at 7,000rpm through five-speed gearbox. Performance: 0-62mph, 5 secs. Max speed, H6mph. Weight: 235kg unladen. Seat height: 76-80cm adjustable. Price: £7.395 plus £450 delivery charges.

petrol indicator light. The weight distribution and the cutaway seat gave me confidence.

The biggest test came when I was blasted by an unfriendly southeaster blowing at 25mph, with gusts of up to 50. Locals call it the Cape Doctor, as they say that it blows pollution and other ills out to sea, but not it is not so kindly looked upon by bikers. It tunnels through ional roads, anything can happen. The Boxer is great for accelerating out of potential trouble: even in fifth gear the response is instant when you nudge the throttle, and the standard ABS braking system proved itself.

Overtaking a BMW 7-series saloon on the coast-hugging road that runs downhill from Llanduano to Camps Bay, I decided that the Boxer, sitting in the middle of BMW's fleet, was a thirtysomething status symbol - not the tearaway 650 road model or trail bike, nor the sedate 1100R tourer but the equivalent of a sporty 3series car with the head-turning panache of just two wheels.

Safe and easy to ride, I never got within a whisper of the upper rev register, although I would have liked to have tried.

You can hire a BMW F650 motorcyle from the BMW Pavilion in Cape Town (00 27 21 419 7362) for R450 per day (£58), with unlimited mileage, or for three to five days from R350 a day (£45). which includes 125 miles (200km) a day free mileage. excluding insurance.

#### STEERING COLUMN

#### Tuned up for the long and winding road

Singer-songwriter Judie Truke is driving around Britain on a 22-date tour. her first for 11 years.

Best known for her classic hit Stay with me till dawn, Judie completed her new album, Under the Angels, at the same time as bringing up her two-year-old daughter, Talula. She also markets her own mail-order record label, Big Moon.

What was your first car?

wooden panelled doors and I What car do you drive now?

A Mini Clubman Estate. It had

A BMW, but at the moment I am driving the Vauxhall Vectra loaned by BSM for the tour.

What is your dream car?

It would have to be a BMW 528i. It is a really beautiful car - but I don't think I could ever afford it.

What was your most hated car?

I believe it was an Austin 1100. but I'm not entirely sure. It was a big square ugly thing. I didn't have it long because it blew up.

What is your worst habit in a

Beth Rissen

meets songstress

Judie Tzuke I have been told by my other half,

Paul, that it is talking. What infuriates you the most about other drivers?

What is the most unusual car you have ever owned or driven?

It would have to be my armygreen plastic Citroen Maserati. it was like driving a tent, the roof was buttoned down, but it was ideal when the weather was nice.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Increase the speed limit on the motorway; there must be a better way to judge it to fit the weather and traffic conditions.

If you could change anything about road transport, what would it be and why?

I might look at pedestrianising more of inner London because the traffic there is just terrible.



With a Vectra from tour sponsors BSM, Judie is ready to roll

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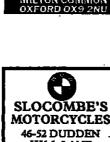
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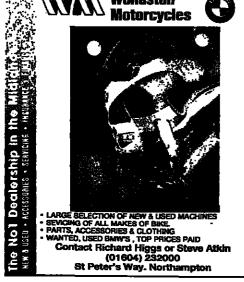
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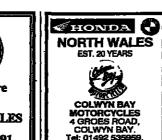
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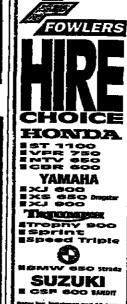
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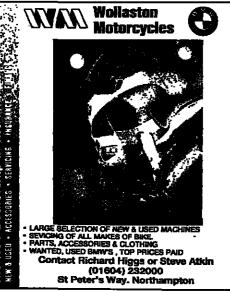
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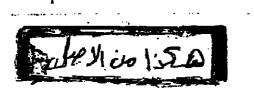


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HOADHOFN

Sally Seward recounts the wrangle over the resurrection of Babs, the car tragically raced by Britain's forgotten record-breaker, John Parry Thomas

# How a lost hero's legend was exhumed

which John Godfrey Parry Thomas died is almost as obscure as the one-time hero of British motoring himself. Parry Thomas broke the world landspeed record twice but died horrifically in an attempt on the long beach at Pendine Sands in South Wales. He should be remembered as a hero who gave up a promising career in the motor industry for record-breaking glory. Yet 70 years later, his

his car, nicknamed "Babs". The car lay wrecked under Pendine Sands after the crash which claimed Parry Thomas's life on March 3, 1927. Forty-two years later, Owen Wyn Owen salvaged the rotting hulk and spent 15 years restoring it - only to discover that he might not be considered the rightful owner.

memory only evokes a strange

wrangle over the ownership of

Pendine Community Council and the National Museum of Wales argued that the car. driven by a Welshman, must be part of the nation's heritage. Owen was forced to set up his own trust and agreed to share the car with the council and museum.

Now 70, Owen, a retired engineering lecturer, is permitted to drive Babs for two months each summer while the car spends the rest of its life as a record-breaking relic at Pendine Sands or inside Cardiff's Industrial and Maritime

Owen says: "The trust has



agreed about the car and it's the right solution — it's basi-cally Welsh property now. July and August are reserved for Babs to be shown at Pendine and the rest of the time is spent in the museum or with me.

When I was a boy I read about Parry Thomas and the buried car and that image stayed with me. Years later I thought I would do something in recognition of his achievement because he'd been

Thanks to Owen, Parry Thomas's memory has been resurrected somewhat after 70 years of obscurity. Parry

Thomas's low profile is probably due to his inability to be a public relations man. His reclusiveness was poles apart from his rival, Donald Campbell, who was a high-profile society figure who could sense when a popping flash-bulb meant maximum coverage for

"Party Thomas was a

highly respected, brilliant en-" says Roger Ramage, of the Brooklands Museum at Weybridge, Surrey, where there is a collection of the

driver's memorabilia. The son of a vicar, Parry

Thomas went to school in

Oswestry where his love of engineering was nurtured. His mother was appalled, preferring the church or the army for her son but when he could not be swayed, she supported him until his breakthrough in 1917 when he was appointed chief engineer at Leyland Motors.

There he produced the fabled 7.2-litre Leyland Eight, the first car produced in Britain with a straight eightlaunched in 1920 to compete with Rolls-Royce, but production lasted only two years with 18 of the leviathan cars built.

Parry Thomas had been allowed to race in one, and soon his lust for speed became all-consuming. At the age of 37, he gave up his well-paid career to start racing.

He raced a Higham Special, for which he paid £125 in 1924. It was a crude vehicle, but with money tight he opted for the cheapest way of getting a fast car. The car had belonged to

engine which developed a mighty 400 horsepower. Parry Thomas then made modifications to the longnosed monster and christened it Babs, some say after the young daughter of Archie Frazer Nash, the legendary

Count Zborowski and under

its bonnet sat a 12-cylinder

chain-drive Liberty aeroplane

motoring pioneer. Parry Thomas had already hurtled to more than 171mph in two record attempts in 1926 in his Thomas Special, but he wanted to break the ISOmph barrier. His attempt was set for the Spring of 1927, the car readied and the long, flat beach of Pendine Sands On the day scheduled for the

The burnt-out wreckage of Babs is dug out in 1969, left. Restored, above.

as a relic, and with Parry Thomas, its ill-starred driver, right

record attempt, Parry Thomas was suffering from flu and was at Pendine Sands against the advice of his doctors. But he felt forced to make his attempt because he knew that his great contemporary and record-breaking rival, Henry Segrave, was on his way to Daytona Sands in the United States along with his expensive and much more powerful

Sunbeam. If Parry Thomas was to hit the 180mph mark first, it was now - or lose the initiative to Segrave.

After two runs, Babs was still to break the barrier. Parry Thomas was anxious but confident, and turned the car's NOTABLE BRITISH SPEED RECORDS

1905 — A. Macdonald (Napier) 1924 — M. Campbell (Sunbeam) 1926 — H. O. D. Segrave (Sunbeam) J. G. P. Thomas (Thomas Special)

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sands for a third run. The huge engine roared and the car rumbled forward to gather speed; the speedometer was turning past 179mph when the record attempt turned to tragedy: Babs clipped a stray stone not cleared from the beach and

long white nose to face the

a drive chain snapped. Babs skidded and slewed for a quarter of a mile before somersaulting three times and hursting into flames. The mechanics, first to reach the

scene, discovered Parry Thomas dead, virtually decapitated; " the drive chain had whipped through the windscreen:

146.18

171.02

174.88

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394,20

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633.46

Parry Thomas was buried close to Brooklands in a churchyard at Byfleet - and Babs, fire-damaged, a virtual wreck, was buried in a huge hole on Pendine Sands. However, she was only waiting for the day when she would be exhumed to carry on the memory of one of Britain's great motoring heroes.

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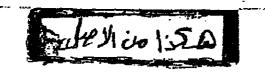
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INSIDE SECTION

Monday Tuesday Wednesday T hursday Friday

**WORKING WEEK** 

Course director who makes Cheltenham jump next week PAGE 27



**BUSINESS** 

Graham Searjeant examines the soufflé syndrome PAGE 29



**SPORT** 

The goals keeping Juninho at home in Middlesbrough **PAGES 42-48** 

THE HIDDEN **ASSETS AT BROCKET** HALL

**PAGE 27** 

SATURDAY MARCH 8 1997



Right tasty: Mike Darrington, managing director of Greggs, centre, Malcolm Simpson, financial director, right, and David Parker, retail operations director, reported a 20 per cent increase in pre-tax profits for 1996 to £15.7 million. Earnings per share were 95.8p (79p) and the total dividend is 32p (26p)

# Littlewoods ends talks to buy Freemans from Sears

LITTLEWOODS, the pools- deal, announced in January. Universal Stores. A company to-retailing group, has bro-received an early setback ken off negotiations-to-buy when it was referred to the mail order business from Sears, leaving its expansion

plans in disarray.

The move could spark a bidding scramble for Freemans, and is a blow to James Ross, chairman of Littlewoods. who is struggling to refocus the group after years of upheaval. Only three days ago. Little-woods put its 135 high street shops up for sale — part of a drive to concentrate on home shopping. Part of the anticipated proceeds of £500 million or more would have financed the Freemans acquisition. The

2.0 iE

Commission (MMC). Littlewoods hoped to secure an exclusive deal with Sears, but was informed on Weinesday that it had received "approaches from a number of parties". They are thought to

include N Brown, the Manchester mail order company. Littlewoods conceded yesterday the timing was "unfortimate", but did its best to put a positive gloss on events. The Freemans acquisition would have boosted its presence in the agency market, where Littlewoods is second to Great

spokesman said the sale of Littlewoods stores would prothe £395 million Freemans Monopolies and Mergers ceed as planned. "It's all systems go. This will have no impact on the stores sale."

The development is a highrisk move by Liam Strong, the embattled Sears chief executive, who hopes to distribute the Freemans sale proceeds to shareholders through a share buyback or special dividend. Sears said it was reviewing the new approaches, and hoped to

conclude negotiations weeks rather than months". Mr Strong said: "Consolidation in the mail order market will result in benefits for

Freemans, its customers, and

Sears shareholders. It restake in Jacques Vert. Further mains the board's intention to deals are expected. For Mr Ross, the former achieve the price expected for

Lilley phone poll

chief executive of Cable and Wireless, the week's events are an embarrassment. He has been working on a strategic review with Bain & Company, the management consultant, and has enjoyed a spell of relative boardroom calm. Feuding among descendants of Sir John Moores, Littlewoods founder, and his brother, Cecil had threatened to overwhelm the group. He said "Our intention to be a worldclass home-shopping business remains unchanged.

Tempus, page 28

## **Former NatWest** trader resigns new job

BANKING CORRESPONDENT

KYRIACOS PAPOUIS, the former NatWest derivatives trader at the centre of an investigation into a £50 million "black hole", has resigned from his job with a US broker.

Bear Stearns, a US securities house, yesterday con-firmed his departure. A spokeswoman said: "We have accepted the resignation of Kyriacos Papouis, an interest rate options dealer in our derivatives department. We have conducted a thorough review of his open trading positions and are satisfied that they were all booked and valued properly. We have notified the Securities and Futures Authority (the UK watchdog for brokers and futures dealers) of his resignation."

Mr Papouis, who left NatWest Markets in December, has retained Stephen Pollard, a partner in Kingsley Napley, the City law firm. Mr Pollard represented Nick Leeson, the rogue trader whose dealings on the Far East money markets caused the £830 million collapse of

Barings two years ago.
NatWest is expected to conclude its internal investigation into the £50 million "black hole" some time next week. The bank's investigators are looking at how the losses, incurred on the interest rate options market, could have gone undetected for so long.

Neil Dodgeson, Mr Papouis's immediate supervisor, has been suspended "for failing to supervise, pending the conclusion of an internal inquiry". Interest rate options are in-struments used to limit or cap potential loss-making positions in the event of volatile movements in world interest rates.

# **WEEKEND**



**Anne Ashworth** on testing times for the City watchdog

Handy hints for last-minute PEP buyers



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#### **PENSIONS**

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#### BUSINESS TODAY

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Brent 15-day (May) \$19.75 (\$19.35) andon close \_\_\_ \$349.45 (\$352.25) concres midday trading price

Litigation GKN, the engineering group, will be embroiled in US

18 months. Page 26

litigation for at least another

# A City goal for Birmingham

By Alasdair Murray

BIRMINGHAM CITY may be languishing close to the bottom of football's first division, but the club scored a goal in the City when its shares raced to a 16 per cent premium on the first day of dealings on the stock market. The shares, which now trade on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM), rose 8p to 58p, valuing the company at £29 million. The flotation raised £7.5 million to

invest in the club. Karren Brady, who becomes the youngest female chief executive of a quoted company, saw the value of her 750,000 share options increase to £435,000. Trevor Francis, the manager, is believed to have purchased 40,000 shares, while Steve Bruce, the team captain, took

stake of 50,000 shares. Birmingham's arrival on the AIM lifted the total new money raised on the smaller companies' market beyond El billion yesterday.

About 260 companies are

quoted on the market with a total capitalisation of more than £6 billion. Birmingham said that the issue was substantially oversubscribed. There were 7,000 individual applications, of

which 1,900 were from seasonticket holders. Birmingham City is at present five places off the bottom of the table after a disastrous run of form that has seen them lose seven of their last eight games and could face a tough battle to

avoid relegation at the end of

on pension plan By Marianne Curphey PETER LILLEY, the Social Security Secretary, personally canvassed the UK's biggest

cash proceeds to ordinary

shareholders. We are commit-

ted to achieving this in the

shortest possible time frame."

keen to talk to Sears about an

exclusive deal, but conceded

privately that prospects were bleak. It insisted that its

presence in home shopping

remains strong. Its direct business, Index Extra. generated

EI60 million in sales last year

the sector - and the company

has ventured into the niche

market with the purchase of a

- making it number three in

Littlewoods said it remained

life companies for their responses to the proposed privatisation of pensions. On the day the proposals were published, he and a number of his officials phoned

the major players in the industry to gauge their reaction. Until then, his plans for reform of the state pension had been kept under wraps for fear of the political damage that could have been done had incomplete information leaked out. So secret were the proposals that the insurance industry was taken by surprise by the announcement.

Mr Lilley's first opportunity to gather responses from insurers was on Wednesday. Among those contacted by

Mr Lilley were Richard Branson, head of the Virgin empire and founder of Virgin Direct, which sells pensions hy phone: Sir Peter Davis, chief executive of Prudential Corporation, the biggest name in UK life and pensions; and

David Prosser, chief executive

of Legal & General. Tony Wood, marketing manager of Virgin Direct, said: "Richard's reaction is that this is a good step, but it is remain concerned that the traditional pension companies are being given a massive golden goose, and we question whether the industry in its present form really deserves. and is equipped to handle. such a large responsibility."

Anne Ashworth, page 31

# Subbuteo loses home fixture

By Adam Jones

SUBBUTEO, the table-top football game invented in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, in 1947, is no longer to be made

The decision of Hasbro, the US toy group, to shift production of several games to Ireland and Spain, will cause 250 redundancies. The company is closing two Waddington Games fac-tories, in Castle Gate, near Leeds, and

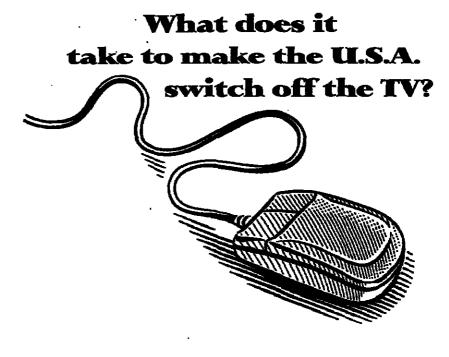
Paddock Wood, Kent. Hasbro bought the games division of Waddington, a listed printing and packaging company, for £50 million in 1994. Waddington devised the Cluedo game and made Monopoly, an American invention, under licence in the UK. It bought the rights to Subbuteo after England's World Cup triumph in 1966. Between them, the last two Wad-dington factories produced Subbuteo and Monopoly pieces, craft toys and

three dimensional jigsaws for Hashro. The company said the UK factories are outdated and have continued to be less efficient than purpose-built Hasbro plants overseas, where spare capacity exists. The Castle Gate factory, which employs 200, was designed as a First World War munitions building. Bryr Ellis, managing director of Hasbn JK, said the "difficult

but necessary decision has nothing to do with the cost or quality of British labour". He said: "The children's entertainment market is extremely competitive."

The closures will happen on June 7. The mouldings processes will be transferred to its big Irish factory in Waterford with other operations diverted to Valencia in Spain.

Ian McCartney, Labour's Chief Employment Spokesman, said: "Yet again a major company is exporting jobs to other European countries which operate a minimum wage and the social chapter."



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J Saville Gordon, the property group, has agreed to buy Rutland Industrial Estates Limited (RIEL) for £605,000 and then finance the purchase, for £46 million, of property portfolios from Peel Holdings and the Royal London Mutual Insurance Society through a rights issue.

At 55p per share, the five-for-six issue will raise £43.6 million. Roger part-owner RIEL which was negotiating the property deal on its own account, will become chief executive of J Saville

#### Torex ahead

Torex, the tool hire and computer management systems company. lifted 1996 pre-tax profits to £1.47 million (£527.000). Profits were helped by the pur-chase of Smart Terminals for £4.8 million. Earnings were 4\_3p a share (2.4p). A 1.6p final dividend makes a 2p total (1.5p).

#### Argent sales

Argent, the property investment and development group, has sold two distribution units, in Didcot and Bicester, to British Telecom Pension Scheme for £38 million, reflecting a net yield of 7.3 per cent. The shares were unchanged at 47lp.

# GKN plans to appeal over \$600m award

BY OLIVER AUGUST

GKN, the engineering group, will be embroiled in US litigation for at least a further 18 months after its decision yesterday to appeal a \$600 million damages award.

Meineke Mufflers, a GKN subsidiary, was being sued by its franchisees, who are alleging that Meineke defrauded them by diverting advertising funds. The \$600 million includes punitive damages as well as compensation.

It is the highest commercial damages award against a British company by an American court. Ted Pearce. Meineke's senior counsel, said: "This is begging to be appealed. The appeal would last 18 months or more." He said that several secondary issues had to be resolved before the appeal could be

lodged. In London a group spokesman said that the appeal had a good chance of success. "Given that GKN is advised that it has very strong substantive and procedural grounds for doing so, it will appeal as soon as possible," he said.

GKN declared a £270 million provision resulting from the case, only hours after announcing its full-year results on Thursday. The group earned record pre-tax profits of £362.8 million in the year to December 31, up from £322.4 million in 1995. No provision was made before the damages were announced to avoid appearing to admit guilt. After the exceptional charge the accounts will now show a pretax profit of £80 million.

The charge was set at £270 million, rather than £400 million, after a 34 per cent cut in the damages. The dividend will not be affected by the damages provision. The shares closed 46p higher, at 1,020p, after dipping briefly to below 950p in early trading.

Dealers were reassured by GKN's determination to appeal, and an out-of-court settlement is on the cards again. It is considered unlikely that the franchisees will get the full £270 million. Andy Chambers, industry

analyst at SocGen, said: "The share price has been absolutely trashed by various press comments in recent weeks, indicating that they could have up to \$800 million of liability. The market was overdiscounting the worst-case scenario. We now have a clear figure of the provision and likely cash outflow from the litigation and we can ascertain what the real impact on earnings is likely to be."



John Byford, left, the chairman of Litho, who is to become nonexecutive in May next year, with Mike Hammond, the managing director who will become chief executive. The group, Britain's largest independent supplier of printing and graphic arts products, yesterday reported a rise in 1996 pre-tax profits to £7.29 million (£6.64 million). Earnings rose to 18p (£6.6p) a share; the total dividend is 8.15p (7.6p), with a final 5p due on May 30.

#### Watchdog fines broker £10,000 for 'churning'

By ROBERT MILLER

A PRIVATE client broker has been fined and suspended by a City watchdog for "churning" investors' portfolios, including those of two elderly sisters.

The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the regulator for brokers and futures dealers, said that between January and November 1994, David Porter, who worked for Robson Cotterell, of Bournemouth, had undertaken ISS and 189 trades respectively on

the two client accounts. The watchdog added that the overall value of the trades were "more than four times the values of the portfolio. Stocks were repeatedly traded rather than held, and a number of stocks were traded on four or more occasions . . . '

Mr Porter was suspended from the SFA register of representatives for 12 months. reprimanded and fined £10,000 with similar costs. His employer, Robson Conerell. reprimanded, fined £20,000, with costs of £10,000. and required to refund a proportion of commission and other charges paid by two

The SFA said that after Mr Porter was questioned by SFA inspectors about his trading on the two client accounts he devised a letter from a client purporting to thank the firm for its active management of

#### **BUSINESS ROUNDUP**

## Shares continue upward progress

LONDON shares rose to a record high yesterday as markets in the UK and America shrugged off stronger than expected jobs data from America. The FT-SE 100 closed up 21 points, at 4.420.3, while the Dow Jones industrial average rose 58.49

points, to 7.003.19 in early trading.

US non-farm payrolls rose by 339.000 in February, well above market expectations, compared with 247,000 in January. The overall unemployment rate declined 0.1 per cent to 5.3 per cent. But average hourly earnings rose by a less than expected 0.2 per cent. Much of the improvement in jobs was attributed to warmer than expected weather, which boosted employment in construction. As a result economists do not expect the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates on March 25-

#### ITT sells Madison stake

ITT, the hotels group that is fighting a \$6.5 billion bid from Hilton Hotels, has sold its half share in Madison Square Garden, the New York arena, for \$650 million. The purchaser is Cablevision Systems, which owns the other half of the arena. The deal includes the New York Nicks baskethall team and the Rangers hockey team as well as the MSG cable TV network. ITT said it represented an SI per cent gain on the \$360 million it paid for the stake two years ago.

#### WT Foods share placing

WT FOODS, the specialist foods manufacturer, is raising £7.85 million through a share placing and open offer to fund the acquisition of Chadha International, an importer and distributor of Chinese and other oriental foods, for £6.7 million. WT also announced the sale of Red Rose Velvets, a cotton velvet manufacturer, to the vendors of Chadha for 5000,000. New WT shares are being offered at 30p. Existingshares were unchanged at 33p yesterday.

## Whitbread agrees sale

WHITBREAD has agreed the conditional sale of its Keg restaurant business to Raleigh Corporation of Canada for £23 million. Keg operates 63 managed and 18 franchised. restaurants in Canada and the Pacific North West. David-Thomas. Whitbread chief executive designate, said Keg was non-core. "Now is a good time for us to sell the business as it is producing sales growth and trading more profitably." he said. Whitbread will continue to concentrate on Europe.

## **Warning by Hawtin**

SHARES in Hawtin, the manufacturer and distributor. dropped op to 40p after the group said that it was likely to report a loss from its American distribution business in the first half of the year because of the costs of replacing its distribution agreement for Barclay Leisure products in the US. The company said that during the time taken to establish a new distributor in America there had been a loss of salesthat had not yet been made up.

#### Compass in Swiss deal

COMPASS, the contract catering group, is to take a 20 percent stake in Selecta, a food vending machine company. Selecta, part of Valora, the Swiss group, will soon be floated on the Swiss stock exchange. Compass's investment, which is unlikely to exceed £50 million when the flotation price is set. is to be funded by cash and equity. It forms part of a cooperation agreement which will see Compass buying all the food for Selecta's European vending and food service.

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## THE SUNDAY TIMES PILE-UP

At the Geneva Motor Show last week, it was business as usual. But away from the glitz and the gleaming metal, a shadow is falling across Western Europe's car

industry 9 In Business, tomorrow

THE SUNDAY PAPERS

## **Lonrho appoints** new chairman

By Jon Ashworth

SIR JOHN CRAVEN, who took the helm at Morgan Grenfell in the wake of the Guinness affair, has been made non-executive chairman of Lonrho, the pan-African trading conglomerate.

Sir John, 56, succeeds Sir John Leahy, who is to step down at the annual meeting on March 20. He remains a non-executive director. The move completes a boardroom reshuffle that sees Dieter Bock, the German property entrepreneur, depart to pursue new interests. Mr Bock sold his 18.6 per cent of Longho

to Anglo American in October. and resigned as chief executive in favour of Nicholas Morrell.

Mr Morrell aims to unbundle the empire built over three decades by Tiny Rowland, Lonrho's founder. Under plans unveiled more than a year ago. Lonrho would be split into two companies, one focusing on mining and the other on trading. Lonrho is negotiating a sale of its Princess Hotels.

Sir John Craven rescued Morgan Grenfell after Guinness - the bank advised on the Distillers bid — and negotiated its sale to Deutsche Bank.

# BSkyB breaks off digital-TV talks

By Alasdair Murray

BSKYB has broken off talks terminated the heads of agreewith Kirch Gruppe over the launch of a digital-television service in Germany

BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, was seeking to take a 49 per cent stake in DFI — a joint venture digital-television satellite project aimed at the lucrative German market.

A provisional agreement between the two companies was signed in July 1996. But the company said last month that the deal had run into problems. It added yesterday that it had

ment because of "a failure to agree on a number of fundamental issues"

BSkyB shares fell 7p to 6162 p. The company is understood to be exploring new opportunities in continental ☐ Three UK cable companies

Telewest Comunications,

Bell Cablemedia and Nynex CableComms Group — vester-day agreed a deal with Gener-Instrument, the US electronics company, to supply set-top boxes for decoding

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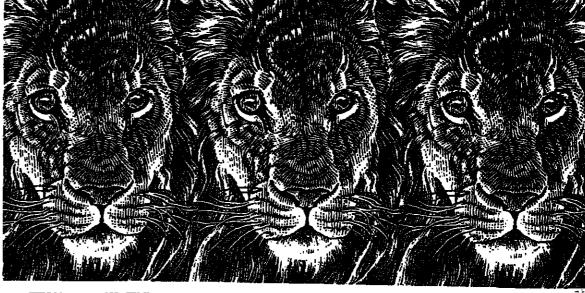
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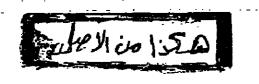
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# Job for stayer who can keep one jump ahead

Robert Miller meets a managing director determined to create the right atmosphere

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onday ANYONE who has sporting event will tell you that preparation is all. If you don't get it right beforehand it is unlikely to come good on the day, as Edward Gillespie, the manag-ing director of Chel-

tenham Racecourse, should know. Next week 150,000 people will descend on the picturesque town of Cheltenham to celebrate the annual three-day festival of National Hunt racing. There may be swankier race meets, and no doubt richer pickings to be had elsewhere, but the Cotswold course is where the aficionados of the jump game gather year after year to admire the horses, applaud the jockeys' bravery, meet old friends, drink and eat copious amounts, and generally enjoy the craic. Even those who are no longer able to make the trip maintain:

their ashes scattered over It is Gillespie's job to ensure that all the celebrants, led by their patron. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Irish Ambassador and 5,000 fans of his fellow countrymen who make the annual pilgrimage,

their links by having

leave on Thursday evening with happy memories. A botched race, a stolen wallet or a lack of loos can spoil an otherwise memorable festival.

Besides the racing, culminating in Thursday's £200,000 Gold Cup sponsored by the Tote, the main talking point is likely to be the £10 million new grandstand to be opened officially by the Oueen Mother on Wednesday. Topped by a panoramic restaurant, where tables and food cost between £345 and £395 a head, I the grandstand represents racing in the

The imposing new structure boasts a museum to past equine and human triumphs, including a mechanical horse for aspirant jockeys, corporate boxes, a spacious Irish theme bar complete with band, as well as the Tote and television screens. There are also superb viewing platforms for the disabled whose needs are recognised and incorporated around

The grandstand will certainly be a major talking point and Gillespie is braced for some pithy views from the diehard traditionalists. One feature of the new building is the amount of room allocated to loos. That, says Gillespie, is at the insistence of Lord Vestey, the chair-

man, who mingles with the crowds on race days and listens to the feedback. Now the enormously spacious facilities have irreverently been dubbed "Sam's loos" after the chairman.

But the 44-year-old Gillespie, who once rode in an amateur race around the course to raise funds for Comic Relief, and came last, has to move with the times. Cheltenham has an annual turnover of nearly £10 million and Gillespie, a graduate from the University of York -"it had a decent racecourse" - with a degree in politics, presides over a flourishing business

Around £6 million is generated directly by the festival, with a further £1.5 million indirectly from television and advertising, and the remainder from a dozen or so National Hunt racing days in the year. Additional revenue is raised from hiring out the grandstand for conferences and weddings. Already Gillespie has a wea-

ther-eye cocked to the financing of the next 6 The festival grandstand. "This new one replaced a stand celebrates our built in the 1950s," he explains. "Nowadays sport. People they have about a 40year life cycle." come, dare I

Like any other busi-nessman, Gillespie's working week has its fair share of bread-and-butter jobs. Cheltenham is

just one of 12 courses, from Epsom and Aintree to Market Rasen and Huntingdon, owned by the Jockey Club through Racehorse Holdings Trust, and the managing director has to keep a tight control on budgets and administration. This particular working week runs from Monday to tomorrow, and has included daily tours of the grandstand, a special inspection of the Royal Box on Tuesday, security meetings with police on Thurs-day, and a briefing to staff supervisors yesterday. The first "star" to arrive was imperial Call, last year's Gold Cup winner, who likes to make the journey from Ireland early to settle in and to establish territorial dominance.

One of Wednesday's more unusual jobs was to find accommodation, almost impossible during festival week when hotel prices double and people have to stay as far afield as Birmingham, for a French trainer and his wife.

"We have spent the last nine or ten months planning this year's festival and work actually begins on preparing the course in the first week of January. Every stage of the planning has to be communicated to the staff because it is vital that everyone actually knows what is going on," says Gillespie, who is married to



Ready for the off. Edward Gillespie, managing director of Cheltenham racecourse. "We have spent the last nine or ten months planning for the festival"

Alyson, a music teacher, and has three children, Siobahn, 17. George, 14, and Rosanna, 8. Gillespie has 14 full-time members of staff, swollen to thousands in the run-up to and during the racing. While the managing director roams all over the course, picking up a stray milk bottle, checking that plants will be in place on the front of the grandstand, worrying about a step up from the Irish Bar over which people might trip, Philip Arkwright, the clerk of the course, is patrolling the turf. Between them, Gillespie, Arkwright and Rosemary Hammond, who is in charge of sales, have clocked up an impressive 53 Cheltenham

The state of the course has been the subject of some controversy. Martin Pipe, the champion trainer, said on Wednesday that although the ground was not as fast as many had feared, it was "puddingy" in a number of places. Gillespie, who became a racecourse manager at the age of 22 "because, like many others, I was a frustrated jockey and not sufficiently brave", says of the course debate: "I'm not short of advice on what we should be

If he should ever fancy a career in the City - although it is hard to envisage him cooped up in the Square Mile -Gillespie will not be short of contacts. Cheltenham boasts almost as many followers from the Mecca of money as it does from the Emerald Isle, and the tented village and boxes will be overflowing with a veritable Who's Who from the world of business and finance.

This year's list of Cheltenham supporters and backers includes Guinness. sponsors of Tuesday's £75,000 Arkle

Challenge Cup and the Pure Genius festival awards; Royal & SunAlliance, the insurer and sponsor of Wednesday's £75,000 steeplechase and £45,000 Novice Hurdle, and Vodafone, through its recent acquisition of the Astec Buzz Shop.

Vodafone, coincidentally, is the current sponsor of the Derby, and was signed up when Gillespie was in charge of the Epsom race for a two-year period. Indeed, it was he who led the somewhat controversial decision to move the event from its traditional Wednesday slot to Saturday. Of that decision he says: "We were trying to bring the Derby up-to-date in a very short period. Even if it does revert to Wednesday we still had to make a clear statement at that time and it has been very effective."

The name of the game, says Gillespie, is to create the right atmosphere for people

to meet each other in convivial surroundings but not to do deals other than betting. of course. Turnover on the Tote last year was almost E6 million and on the racecourse itself £1 million is gambled on each of the 20 races, in which some 360

horses will be running.

As most people look forward to a relaxing weekend Gillespie is girding himself for the climax of his working year. The festival is a celebration of our sport. People come, dare I say it, for a fix. They are carried along on the emotion of it all and go away exhausted after three days of being totally immersed."
With 14,000 bottles of champagne,

20,000 bottles of wine and 50,000 bottles of beer, plus a lake of Guinness and Murpheys, the task of cheering the winners and commiserating with the losers should not be too difficult.

# Building a new foundation for the hall of shame

Brocket Hall, the 18th he inherited as a 15-year-old contary stately home at Eton, led him to attempt an inept insurance fraud in 1991 seen more than its fair share of scandal in its 200-year history. In February last year, Lord Brocker, a pole-playing ormer Cavalry officer, was jailed for five years after admitting to a £4.5 million insurance fraud involving four classic Italian sports cars. The army of press photographers that invaded the estate relayed superb images of the bandsome house and the tranquil

Broadwater Lake: But still waters run deep and Brocket Hall's future had been uncertain for some time. of Lord Brocket's passion for ars, and his determination to cling to the stately home that

to counter mounting debts. Lord Brocket is now in Ford open prison and last December Brocket Hall and its 534acre estate and golf club were sold, on a 60-year lease, for £9 million to the CCA Group. The Hong Kong based developer of luxury clubs and conference centres intends to spend El million developing the estate into a modern

conference centre. Brocket Hall was built between 1760 and 1775 by James Paine (1717-89), a great exponent of the English Palladian style, in the generation that followed Lord Burlington and William Kent, With Sir Matthew Laws as patron. Paine took on the remodelling of the property, which

### HIDDEN ASSETS

had seen various incarnations since the first Brocket Hall was built on the site in 1239. Most accounts suggest that Paine's was a new house. although its form was dictated by that of its predecessor. That had been a building of three ranges around a courtyard open to the north. Paine added a fourth range and installed a large staircase.

The character of the house varied according to the contrasting lifestyles of two of its patrons, Sir Matthew Laws and later his son (who became Lord Melbourne). Sir Matthew was a successful attorney who came to architecture late in life. By the time of his death in 1768, only the

east and the new north range had been completed. The exteriors were relatively plain and the interiors were conservative in style.

His son was more socially ambitious and inclined to elaborate display. The south front he had built grander in style and the principal rooms were finished with fine decorative ceilings. Grounds were land-scaped, marble chimney pieces fitted and library bookcases designed by Chippen-dale (now one of only two examples remaining in the world). Cipriani, one of the 18th century's master craftsmen, was commissioned to paint the inset panels in the

room's elaborate ceilings. The son's architectural and

decorative efforts paid off and his social ambitions were realised when he became the lst Lord Melbourne, though this was largely, it is said, achieved through the efforts of his wife, who was a mistress of the flamboyant Prince Regent. The Prince, later crowned George IV. was a frequent visitor to Brocket Hall and created the Chinese suite of rooms, now known as the Prince Regent Suite. He also presented his mistress with a Reynolds painting. which hangs in the ballroom. and had a racecourse laid out

The 2nd Lord Melbourne was married to Lady Caroline Lamb, known for her passion for Lord Byron. Lady Caro-

ranged for herself to be served up as a surprise dish at Lord Melbourne's grand ballroom birthday dinner she emerged naked from a

giant soup tureen. Lord Melbourne evéntually became Prime Minister and formed a close friendship with Queen Victoria, who often visited Brocket Hall. On his death, the hall passed to his sister, who married Lord Palmerston, who also became Prime Minister.

Given the high levels of public attention that Brocket Hall has attracted, CCA will no doubt be hoping for a period of calm and privacy in which to make the most of its

Joanna Pitman



Brocket Hall awaits its future as a conference centre



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# Compass share price to lift on entry to to

COMPASS, the contract caterer, ended the week on a flat note, with the price falling 1512p to 70612p as Accor, the French hotelier and its biggest shareholder, unloaded an 11.5

per cent holding.
But things should start to look up for Compass next week when it is admitted as a constituent of the top 100 companies. Such a move is almost certain to provide a boost to its share price, with confirmation of its appointment attracting the attention of the index-tracking funds.

Admission to the top 100 is calculated by the size of a company's stock market value. At the close of business last night Compass was valued at £2.29 billion. Others likely to be admitted to the exclusive band of constituent companies are Southern Electricity, unchanged at 44012p and valued at £2.10 billion. British Land. 1p firmer at 53812p (£2.5 billion) and Amvesco. formerly Invesco, 12p easier at 36312p

They are likely to replace Tate & Lyle, down 512p at 4402p (£1.93 billion). Argos. I'zp easier at 677'zp (El.94 billion), Hanson, down 7p at 294p (El.96 billion) and Smith & Nephew, unchanged at 18334p (£2 billion).

By the close of business last night almost 40 million Compass shares had changed hands after Accor had executed a put through in 36.5 million shares at 700p.

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awe

The rest of the equity market continued to be squeezed higher, with share prices breaching the 4,400 level to end the week on another high note. Investors continued to take their lead from Wall Street, where a sharp rise in the employment numbers was offset by a subdued set of US average earnings. This reduced the pressure for a rise in interest rates.

As a result, the FT-SE 100 index ended just a shade below its best of the day with a rise of 21.0 at a closing high of 4,420.3. Over the week the index has risen 112 points. A total of 924 million shares were traded yesterday.

GKN opened sharply lower. touching 95812p on the overnight news that a US court had ordered it to pay \$598 million compensation to settle the Meineke Mulliers dispute. The sum awarded was far higher than the worst-case scenario painted by the group



Karren Brady of Birmingham City, launched on AIM at 58p

porting pre-tax profits of £368 million. The shares later bounced back to close 4512p higher at £10.20 as brokers took the view that any further uncertainty had now been

Reckitt & Colman fell 16p to 80712p ahead of full-year figures next week as ABN Amro Hoare Govett. the broker,

resumed buying back its own shares. It paid £11.12 each for a total of one million shares and has now acquired 22

Kleinwort Benson.

Barclays Bank finished 312p better at £11.14 as it

million of the 26 million required to complete its buyback programme. BTR attracted support, risdowngraded its recommendaing 1612p to 276p as dealers

Hang on to your hats with Shield Diagnostics, down 6p at 60212p, after its recent spectacular run. Followers say further positive news is on the way. A new broker will be appointed later this month as Shield begins a series of presentations. The shares are being talked another 200p higher before the end of the month.

tion for the shares. There was big turnover in Rediand as the price rose 8p to 372p with more than 13 million shares changing hands. A line of five million shares went through the market at the 370p level.

Brokers also reported large turnover in Asda, with 36.7 million traded as the price held steady at 11012p. Word is that a number of brokers have begun to turn bearish of the shares, including Dresdner

continued to reflect on Thursday's profit numbers. Nat-West Securities is urging clients to "add" to their holdings, while the advice from Credit Lyonnais Laing is to

Sears, the Selfridges and Freemans retailer, slipped 12p to 8112p. Littlewoods, Britain's biggest privately owned company, has withdrawn its £395 million offer for Freemans after discovering Sears was in talks with another potential

MOVERS OF THE WEEK				
Commercial Union 732½p PPL Therapeutics 422½p Forward Group	Heek's change +49½pRevived bld speculation -89½pPCB bids £129 million +56p Interim Services blds £348 million -40p			

ce set	Amsterdar EOE Index Sydney:
p 100	Frankfurt DAX
uyer. The offer by Little- roods had already been re- erred to the Monopolies and dergers Commission, but it ad been expected to renew he attack once the bid had seen cleared.	Brussels: General Paris: CAC-40 Zurich: SKA Gen
On AIM, Birmingham ity, the Nationwide League totball club headed by arren Brady, managing dictor, had a promising startifier being "substantially" versubscribed after a placing 50p. The price opened at 12p and 64p before closing 58p, a premium of 8p.	London: FT 30 FT 100 FTSE Mid 250 FTSE 350 FTSE Eurotra FT All-Share _ FT Non Finan FT Fixed Inter FT Govr Sees _ Bargains SEAQ Volume US3

By contrast. Manches United's celebrations after four-goal victory over Opto FC in the European C proved to be short-lived. T price touched 640p befo ending the session down 10 at 64712p after revived sug-gestions that football clubs are overvalued.

A large trade conducted at sharp discount to the rulin market price left Kingsbur Group, the retailer, nursing 20p fall at 165p. A line of 500,000 shares went through the market on Thursday a 185p, compared with the ther middle price of 204p.

One trader was trying fran tically to sort out a bad trading position in Norcros as th price fell a further 612p to new low of 8112p. Earlier thi week shares in the building products group were unhinged by news of a disposal of 181,000 shares carried out by a main board director. A profits warning

Hawtin 6p down at 40p, with interim losses predicted. ☐ GILT-EDGED: Bone prices in London spent much of the day tracking the performance of US Treasury bonds After recovering from early falls, prices followed US T bonds higher but failed to hole their best levels.

The June series of the lone gilt finished three ticks bet ter at £111316 as a total of 94,000 contracts were completed.

Treasury 8 per cent 2015 put on £14 at £10514, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was a couple of ticks firmer a □ NEW YORK: Shares were higher as Wall Street breathed a sigh of relief after the release of February employment fig-

ures that appeared to be no threat to wage levels or inter est rates. By midday the Dov Jones industrial average was 58.49 points higher at 7,003.19.

	MAJOR INDICES
	New York (midday): Dow Jones
	Tokyo: Nikkel Average 18198.74 (+157.41)
	Hong Kong: Hang Seng
	Amsterdam: 764.96 (+0.29)
	Sydney: AO 2438.5 (-8.9)
	Frankfurt DAX
	Singapore: 2178.27 (-1.66)
ile- re-	Brussels: General
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77	FTSE Mid 250 4713.8 (+6.5)
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ly"	FT All-Share 2153.44 (+8.19)
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V	Prudential	598 p (+15p)
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	Thistle Hotels	
V	Kenwood App	133 :p (-5p)

Closing Prices Page 39

# **TEMPUS**

# Pensions for bears

thing the company had pre-

viously refused to do. Never-

theless. GKN is appealing

against the judgment and

must hope that the provision

is not taken as a sign of

As far as investors are

IF PENSION provision is a worry for people, it could become a big headache for companies. The Pensions Act. parts of which come into force next month, puts more pressure on trustees to ensure that pension funds are adequately financed. Although many companies are still enjoying pension-fund holidays

a consequence of the 14-year bull market the Act prescribes a minimum funding requirement (MFR) that could force trustees to make cash calls on companies if assets fall below the present value of the liabilities.

Typically, a UK pension fund is more than

80 per cent equities: a consequence of years of good share dividend growth and fund managers competing to outperform their peers. As long as the bull market continues and assets well exceed liabilities, that should not be a problem, but two factors could cause nervous trustees to demand a switch into fixed interest, and, ultimately, bigger contributions. The MFR could create a downward spiral. A falling equity market would encourage trust-

ees to demand a more conservative asset allocation; under the guidelines for an average pension scheme, gilts should make up 60 per cent of the assets. The consequence of an asset shift to gilts would be a flight from equities and falling shares, further depressing the asset value of UK pension funds, now heavily weighted to wards shares. That could eventually lead to a flurry of cash calls on

Such a grim scenario looks implausible only to those used to a rising market. There are other risks: a cash-hungry Labour Government might well withdraw the tax credit on dividends paid to pension funds. A reduction in cashflow to pension schemes of more than £4 billion can only increase pressure on trustees to ensure that schemes are fully funded. That means cash calls on mature, underfunded schemes. Sensible corporate treasurers will be taking put options on this bull market to protect their companies from the cost of a cash call.

enough to pay Thursday's award of damages. Mr

Chow has put his name

behind the dividend. With

the worst-case scenario pro-

vided for, the share market

has finally taken heart from

the company's record results

#### **GKN**

GKN, maker of the constant velocity joint, could have saved itself a huge amount of grief if it had settled the US damages case at the start. What was an insignificant legal problem has turned into a financial and public relations nightmare. Instead of celebrating its record profits this week. GKN managers had to justify their position over the conduct of

a subsidiary years ago. C. K. Chow. the new chief executive, tried to put the best gloss on it, but he must have been aggrieved that his promising start at the manufacturing group was marred by the previous decision to

The \$600 million damages judgment more than wiped out the year's profits of £363 million. requiring a provision in the accounts, some-

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C	ONSISTENTLY V	OLATILE SHARES	P 1200	
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#### Sears/ Littlewoods

EVEN if Sears does not squeeze an extra penny from the prospective new buyer of Freemans, it will be jolly pleased to complete a deal. Referral of the Lindewoods transaction to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission out a damper on Liam Strong's efforts to restore his own and the company's credibility. Plans for a jumbo distribution to shareholders are on hold. Sears may experience some schadenfreude in making another retailer look foolish but the real reason to spurn Littlewoods is to escape the MMC. A combination of Littlewoods and Freemans would have more than 30 per cent of the market with huge savings from combining distribution and call centres.

Hence, the interloper is likely

**DOLLAR RATES** 

to be another mail order operator rather than a high street retailer. Suspicion falls on N Brown, the direct mail order specialist. It would enjoy a quantum leap in market share by taking on Freemans's agency business. Otto Versand, the German group that owns Grattan, is a candidate; merging the two should fall short of the 25 per

cent limit. In hindsight, it is scarcely suprising that Sears kept its options open and that Littlewoods has been gazumped. Mail order businesses are prized among retailers desperate for ideas. Whether the assets will ever achieve more than their past pedestrian performance is another

### BAe

ONE of the property sector's little mysteries is why British

Aerospace continues to hang on to Arlington Securities. BAe paid £278 million for the business park developer in 1989. The idea was that Arlington would turn BAe's vast tracts of surplus land into cash but the recession intervened and demand for of-Mice space plummeted.

850

leaving BAe nursing losses. The policy, says BAe, is to run Arlington's £500 millionportfolio for cash, but the property market has changed.

City centres are no longer littered with empty new office blocks and the share prices of property companies are athuge premiums.

BAe could probably package Arlington's assets and getmore than their net worth in. a flotation. Such a window of\_ opportunity may not last.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

earner in the week after re-		
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	,	**************************************
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May 1750-1735 Nov 1690-1680 May 1722-1720 Jan 1665 SLR	Bid Offer	Apr 64.5 99.50
Jul 1720-1716 Mar	Premium Unid 205 (+1) 208 (+1)	May 69.5 64.50
Sep 1712-1710 Volume: 5081	Gasnil EEC 170 (+6) 171 (+6)	Jun
	3.5 Fuel Oil 80 (-2) 82 (-3)	Volume: 43
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(711) 750 8 234 34 43 55 624 Br Steel 140 18 21 22 1 41 6	(*276) 280 8', 15', 20', 18 21', 25', Br Acro (350 59 93 114'; 46'; 61'; 73',	Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct
(*156%) 160 41. 81. 11% 7% 14 16	(*1356*1 1400 39 48', 40 75', 84 100	Glasso W 1050 45% 71% 86% 22% 40% 55
C&W 500 23 37 47': 12': 25': 32': 1907'd 550 5 to 26': 45 55': 62	Br Telcon 420 24 33 36 10 225 26	(*1087) 1100 21 46', 62'; 50', 66'; 79'; HSBC 1500 122 161'; 186', 55 47'; 68',
CU	(*42*) 460 7 15 18', 33', 49 51', Cadbury 500 41'; 51'; 57'; 10'; 15 18	(*1617) 1600 48'1104', 132'7 52'7 90 114
(*733°.) 750 19 45°, 56°, 51 72 87	(1534) 550 (2°, 25 33°, 32 39 42	Reuter 600 50': 68 76': 8', 16': 22':
1C1	Guinness 400 28 38 43° 11' 18 20	1047) 650 18°, 40° 49°, 29° 36° 44°, Royal & Sun 460° 30°, 40°, 49°, 8° 17°, 23°,
Land Sec 750 50', 61 No. 2 14', 19'.	(1482)) 500 9 19: 24: 34: 40 41 GEC 360 31: 34: 42: 5 12 15:	("488") 500 7½ 21½ 30 30½ 39 44½
(7993), 800 16 28', 37', 17', 38 43 M & S 460 35', 44 50 3', 11', 13	(*381%) 390 14 21', 26'; 17', 27 30's	Series May Aug Nov May Aug Nov
C490': 500 10 20': 28': 17 28': 31'.	Hanson.	Blue Circ 390 30': 36': 43', 10': 15 217.
Nat West 700 54 76 83 51 171, 271	LASMO 240 let, 241, 28 Tr. 12 15	(*13%) 420 12, 21 28; 25, 30 35;
(*744) 750 21 46 55 22° 37° 50 Safeway pic 360 17° 26 32 8 18 22°:	72441 250 8', 16 20 21 23', 25	Series May Ang Nov May Ang Nov
(*367) 390 51: 121: 19 25 36 401:	Lucas Varily 200 14°, 21 24°, 7 9°, 14 (*207) 220 9°, 12 19°, 18 30°, 25	Kingfishr _ 650 -47 58% 66 13% 22% 28%
Sainsbury, 300 22 29 314 35 11 135 (7316/4) 330 6 121 17 17 27 30	Pilkingtn (+0 12', 15 - 3', 8'; -	(1080/1) 700 20 32'. 42': 39': 47 53
(*316%) 330 6 12% 17 17 27 30 50611	(*146)   160 4 6'; — 15 20 —   Prudential .550 52 66', 74', 9', 17 23',	SeriesMar Jun Mar Jun
(*1081'4 1100' 19 34 50°, 49°, 62 73°;	(*598°.) 600 22 38', 47', 30°, 39 40',	Br Gas 220 191 24 - 1 91 -
Smkl Bch 900 49', 74 9t 17 34 44'; (*938) 950 22', 48', 64'; 40 58 tril	Rediand 360 26 31! 399: 15 21! 264	(*234) 240 5 125 — 6 19 —
Storrehse 300	(*572) 340 (1) (8 27 34 39 44   R-Royce 240 237 305 36 R (2 14).	SeriesMar Jun SepMar Jun Sep  Disons 500 32: 51 59 19 12: 229.
(unq)	(*2564) 260 H1, 20 26 H7 2H1 34	Disease 500 32; 51 50 15, 127, 217, 17530 5 550 32; 23; 13 22 35 45;
(ung) 60	Tesco 330 24': 31 36 #4 13 17 1'347) 360 8 16': 22 24': 29 32':	EMI Group 1190 351 79 102 10 391 80
Zeneca 1800 1024, 157 141 34 61 784;	Williams 330	C1172's) 1300 11', 54 77 35 63 84 Tarmac 100 4 7's 10's 1's 6 6's
("1882".) 1900 51°. 105°. 137°/ 80°/ 108°: 124°.	(und) 360 ~	(*102) 110 0°. 3°: 6°: 8 12°: 12°:
Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct BAT Ind 550 IN, 34; 39; 30 42 57;	FISE INDEX (*44)6/3	Hillsdwn 180 (3 16% 17% 0% 5% 7% (191%) 200 2 5% 7% 8% 17% (8
(*550%) 100 5 174 224 70 77 86	4300 4350 4401 4450 4500 4550	(*1914) 200 2 55 75 85 175 18. Longho 140 85 135 165 1 45 65
Vadafone _ 200 234, 33 39 51 12 16	<del></del>	1147'1 160 0', 5 7'; 13 15 17', Sears 90
(*296*4) 300 12 22 29 13', 21', 26	Calls Mar 118', 73': 38 15 4 1	iuno: 100
Series May Aug Nov May Aug Nov  Grad Mel 400 33 42', 50 8', 15', 10'-	Apr 145 108': 76 49'. 30 15',	Thom EMI 1500
(1479) 500 12': 22 30 24 34 39':	May 168'. 136 104 7#; \$4'. 39	(unq) 1600 — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
Ladbroke 240 12'. 16'. 22'. 10 14 fo':	Jun 2009 1669 132 1089 R2 62 Dec 315 — 2519 — 202 —	Tomkins 280 7   9 24': 3   1   17': (*2834) 300 0': 10   15   16': 22   28':
(*243) 250 5'. 10 14 23'. 25 27'. Utd Bisc 240 9'. 17 22 13'. 16'. 21'.	Pats .	Lloyds 758, 500 19 40', 50', 3-17 25
("2411 260 V; 9: 14: 28 30 34	Max   10° 21 37° 64 108 154     Apr   38° 52° 71 96° 127 164	1°515) 550 1 (7°, 27°, 35°, 44°, 51°, 500; Parr 360 8 22°, 28 5 13 20°,
March 7, 1997 Tot +9146 Call: 21769	Apr   38°: 52°; 71   96°: 127   164     May   61°: 78°; 96°; 121°; 148°; 180	[736374] 390 07. 9 15 394, 307, 309,
Part 27377 FTSE Call: 4236 Part 4179	Jun 78's 95 113 138 164 195	Uniferer 1900 65's 89', 114', 3', 31 45
Underlying security prict.	Dec 145 — 1627 — 230 —	(*1599) 1600 9 305 675 445 815 96

Long Gilt Previous open interest: 220718	Mar47 . Jun 47 .	111-25 111-11	112-04 111-22	111-j9 111-25	D1-31 D1-16	8076 43018				
German Govt Bond (Bund Previous open Interest: 243642		101.57 100.75	101.85 103.75	101.25 (00.60	101.50 100 63	234352 100				
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest 98137	Jun 97 Sep 97	127.20 127.27	138.10 127.60	127 OU 127,10	127.60 127.52	60428 727				
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB	) Jun 47 Sep 97	125.31	125.31	125 (0	125.29 129.88	1709 17				
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 97 . Jun 97 .	43.75 43.57	93.75	93,73 93,55	93.75	12306				
Previous open Interest: 5,2979	Sep 97	93.35	43 <b>73</b> 8	93.32	03,56 93,38	21569 17656				
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest: 1280741	Mar 97 . Apr 97 .	96.74 46.75	96.75 96.75	Ф 73 Ф 75	45.73 45.74	21544 604				
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open inserest: 284934	Mar 97 . Jun 97	9 <u>2.6</u> 4 93   3	42.75 43.20	92.6M 93.11	92.75 93.17	.22802 .22802				
Three Mth Euroyen	Jun 97 Sep 47	99,31 99,31	99.4] 99 <u>.3]</u>	99.41 99.31	99.31	500 3800				
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open Interest 106008	Mar 97 . Jun 97	49L13 49L15	98.15 98.18	98.10 99.11	98.JU 98.12	n572 14977				
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest: 34562	Mar 97 . Jun 97	95.75 95.78	95.7A 95.80	95.74 95.75	45.74 95.77	47k 1302				
FTSE 100 Previous open Interest: 71512	Магч7 . Jun 97	43800.0 4399.0	440LU 4422.0	4350.0 4381.0	4401.0 4421.0	13104 976				
THE TOTAL PROPERTY OF		1,570	71220	13110	772121	470				
MC	NEY RA	TES (	%)	: _ <u>_</u> .						
Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6	Finance Hse									
Discount Market Loans: O/nla Treasury Bills (Dist:Buy: 2 mth	gni nign: 6%   5% = : 3 mth 5		Low 5", 2 mth 5'	'• : 3 mi	Week f	ixed: 6				
l mi Prime Bank Bills (Dis): 5"w			anth tr's-tr	- 6 mti		12 mub				
Sterling Money Rates: 6	web block	, le	6'0-6'	6"·;-		6-6-,				
Interbank: 6 Overmight: open 5%, close 6%.	יאלים פי-א'	) a	6'16'-	6"ر-	6° b	b'+b"c				
		/a .	6'a b'eb'u	81	6'- 6'-	67:				
Dollar CDs:	5.30 n	Sterling CDs: 0'40 0'40'0 0'40'4 0'40'4 0'40'4 0'40'4 0'40'4 0'40'4 0'40'4 0'40'4 0'40'4 0'40'4 0'40'4 0'40'4								
Building Society CDs: 6'4-6 6'4-6'4 6'4-6'4 6'4-6'4										
	_			6"u-	6°u	6°-6'-				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: E Last week: £98.50% received: 57 £400m.	1,863m allotte	ed: £400m	n; Bids:	-ن"6 \$ <b>98.55%</b>	6°u received	ይ"⊷ይ"። ሷ51%:				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: £ Last week: £98.50% received: 57	1,863m allotte %: Avge rate:	ed: 6400m 65.79809	n; Bids: Liasi wi	6"u- £98.55% k £5.757-	eceived received 1%; Next	ይ"⊷ይ"። ሷ51%:				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: E Last week: £98.56% received: 57 £400m.	1.863m allome *: Avge rate:	ed: 6400m 65.7980°	n; Bids: Liasi wi	6"u- £98.55% k £5.757-	evelved revelved (%; Next	ይ"⊷ይ"። ሷ51%:				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: E Last week: C98.50% received: 57 EUROPEAN Currency 7 day Dollar: 5%	1.863m allome %: Avge rate: MONE y I mith	d: 6400m 65.79809	OSIT	6"u- 698.55% k ES.757- FS (% 6 mil 5%	e'u revelved 1%; Next	t: 51%; week:				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: E Last week: 198.50% received: 57 1400m.  EUROPEAN  Currency 7 day  Dollar: 5%-4  Deutschemark: 3%- French Franc: 3%-	1.863m allotte %: Avge rate:  (MONE) y I mith 'a 574-5' 2' 3'-3' -3 5-3	d: 6400m 65.79809	OSIT	6"u- £98.55% £ E5.757- FS <b>(%</b>	eru received 1%; Next	t: 51%; week:				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: E Last week: 108.50% received: 57 EUROPEAN  Currency 7 day  Dollar: 5%-4  Doubschemark: 3% French Pranc 3% Swiss Franc: 11%-4	1,963m allome %: Avge rate: 1 MONE y   mth 'm 57=5' 2-3 3'=3' 3-3 3'=3'	d: 6400m £5.79809	OSIT	6"u- £98.55% \$ £5.757- <b>FS (%</b> 6 mil 5%- 3%- 3%- 1%-	evelver receiver 1%; Next	Call 5-4 3-2-2 2-1-1				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: E Last week: 198.50% received: 57 1400m.  EUROPEAN  Currency 7 day  Dollar: 5%-4  Deutschemark: 3%- French Franc: 3%-	1,963m allome %: Avge rate: 1 MONE y 1 mth ''a 57-5' 2-3 3'-3' ''a 2-1''	d: 6400m £5.79809	1; Bids:   last will	6"u- £98.55% \$ £5.757- <b>FS (%</b> 6 mil 5%- 3%- 3%- 1%-	received  received  Next	Call 5-4 3-2-3				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: E Last week: 108.50% received: 57 EUROPEAN  Currency 7 day  Dollar: 5%-4  Doubschemark: 3% French Pranc 3% Swiss Franc: 11%-4	1,863m allome %: Avge rate:  MONE:  y i min 's 5'e-5' 2. 3'e-3 3 5'e-3 's 2.1''	d: 6400m 65.7980* / DEF	it Bids: I last with POSIT  muth No.5 in 3 in 3 in 1 in 1 in 2 in 1 in 2 in	6"u- L98.55% k E5.757- FS (% 6 mi 5'- 3'- 1'- 1'-	the state of the s	Call 5-4 3-2-2 2-1-1				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: E Last week 198.50% received: 57 6400m.  Currency 7 da Dollar: 5-4 Doubtelemark: 3- French Franc: 3- Swiss Franc: 1"- Year: 'w	I MONE  I MONE  I min  Section 3-3  3-3  3-3  3-3  Close \$142.00	d: £400m £5.79809 / DEF	ii; Bids: ii last wi POSII  mith %-5'n 3'-3'n 'n-3'n 'n-3'n (Bai	6"4" 698.55% 6 ES.757  FS (% 6 mi 5% 3% 1% 74  rd & (	eru received (%). Next	Call 5-4 3-2-2 2-1-1				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: E Last week 108.50% received: 57 6400m.  EUROPEAN  Carreacy 7 da  Dollar: 5-4  Doubschemark: 34  French Pranc: 3  Swiss Franc: 110  Low 5348.00-348.50  Low 5348.00-348.50  Krugerrand: \$348.50-351.50 (£2)	1,863m allome %: Avge rate: 1 MONE: 1 min 7 5 5 5 5 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3	d: £400m £5.79809 / DEF 3 3 5 7 7 7 7 7 8 8 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9 9	CBail High: 2 \$350.30	6"u- Leas.55% k E5.757- S (% 6 mi 5'r- 3'r- 1'r- 1'u- rd & (	6"u received 19%; Next	6%-6% £ \$1%: week: Call 5-4 3-2-3 3-2-1 1-par				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: E Last week 198.50% received: 57 L400m.  EUROPEAN  Currency 7 da Dollar: 5-4 Doubschemark: 34 French Franc: 3 Swiss Franc: 110 Low 5348.00-348.50 Low \$348.00-348.50 Low \$348.00-348.50 Krugerrand: \$348.50-351.50 (L2) Platinum: \$381.75 (L237.75) S	1,863m allome %: Avge rate:  MONE:  y i min 3 -3 -3 -3 -3 -3 -2 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1	d: £400m £5.79809 / DEF 33 5 TALS	CBail	6"u- L98.55%, k E5.757- S (% 6 mi 5'- 3'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1	6°u received (%: Next	6%-6% £ \$1%: week: Call 5-4 3-2-3 3-2-1 1-par				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: E Last week 108.50% received: 57 6400m.  EUROPEAN  Carreacy 7 da  Dollar: 5-4  Doubschemark: 34  French Pranc: 3  Swiss Franc: 110  Low 5348.00-348.50  Low 5348.00-348.50  Krugerrand: \$348.50-351.50 (£2)	1,863m allome %: Avge rate:  MONE:  y i min 3 -3 -3 -3 -3 -3 -2 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1 -1	d: £400m £5.79809 / DEF 33 5 TALS	CBail	6"u- L98.55%, k E5.757- S (% 6 mi 5'- 3'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1	6°u received (%: Next	6%-6% £ \$1%: week: Call 5-4 3-2-3 3-2-1 1-par				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: E Last week: 108.50% received: 57 EUROPEAN  Currency 7 day Dollar: 5%-40 Dollar: 5%-40 Doubschemarke 3% French Franc 3% Swiss Franc 11% Yea: 10% Bullion: Open \$352.40-353.90 Low: \$348.50-351.50 (£2 Platinua: \$381.75 (£257.75) S  ESTERLING SP Mixt Rates for March 7 R	1,863m allome %: Avge rate:    MONE	TALS -349.70 PM	OSITOSITOSITOSITOSITOSITOSITOSITOSITOSIT	6"u- LCR.557. K ES.757. S (% 6 mi 5'- 3'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1'- 1	6% reactive (1%; Next)  h 5% 3% 1%	Call 5-4 3-24 2-14 1-par				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: E Last week: 108.50% received: 57 EUROPEAN  Currency 7 day Dollar: 5%-4 Doubschemark: 3%- French Pranc: 3% Swiss Franc: 11%- Yen: 6  GOLD/PRECM  Ballion: Open \$352.40-352.50 Low: \$348.00-348.50  Krugerrand: \$348.00-348.50  Krugerrand: \$348.00-351.50 (£2  Platinuar: \$381.75 (£257.75) S  STERLING SP  Max Rates for March 7 Amsterdam	1,863m allome %: Avge rate:  (MONE)  y   mith %: 5'-5' 2: 3'-3' 3'-3' 3'-3' 2:1"  OUS ME  Close 5:4-9.20  (Nor: \$5.1-9 (L3  OT AND  Lange: 1082: 3 6,940: 56 6,940: 56	TALS 1-349.70 PM 1-3551-56-3.10 1-3551-56-3.10	mith Section 1 (Bail MARI)  Called MARI  M	6" E-8.5757 E-8.5757 F-8.676 6 mi 5' 3' 3' 3' 3' 3' 3' 3'	6% received (%; Next)  b 5% 3% 3% 1% 1% 1% 1% 1% 1% 1% 1% 1% 1% 1% 1% 1%	Call 5-4 3-24 24-14 1-par				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: £ Last week: £08.50% received: 57 £400m.  EUROPEAN  Currency 7 day  Dollar: 5%-4  Doublar: 5%-4  Dentschemark: 3%- French Franc: 3%- Swiss Franc: 11%- Yea: 1%  GOLD/PRECN  Ballion: Open \$352.40-353.90  Low: \$348.50-351.50 (£2  Platinua: \$381.75 (£257.75) \$  STERLING SP  Mat Rates for March 7  Amsterdam 31044- Brussels 56.7705  Copenhagen 10.492-  Dublin 1	1,863m allome %: Avge rate:  WONE  y I mith %: 5°-5° 2: 3°-3° 3'-3° 3'-3° 2:1" % 2: 1" % OUS ME Close 5:49-20° (Neer: \$5.19 (£3 0T AND (1082: 3 6.940° 6.522 10.349° 1	TALS 1-349.70 PM	mith Section 1998 (Bail MARI MARI MARI MARI MARI MARI MARI MARI	6" E-8.5757 E-8.5757 F-8.676 6 mi 5' 5' 1'	6% received 1%; Next	Call 5-4 3-25 20-15 1-par 1-23pr 1-23pr 1-23pr 1-3pr 1				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: E Last week: 108.50% received: 57 6400m.  EUROPEAN  Currency 7 dax Dollar: 5%-4 Doubschemark: 3%- French Pranc: 3% Swiss Franc: 11%- Yea: 10% Ballion: Open \$352.40.351.50 Low: \$348.00.348.50 Krugerrand: \$348.50.351.50 (£2 Platinum: \$381.75 (£237.75) S  STERLING SP  Mist Rates for March 7 Amsterdam	1,863m allome %; Avge rate:  (MONE) y i mith y i mith y 3-3' -3' -3' -3' -3' -3' -3' -3' -3' -3'	DEF TALS 1349.70 PM 1349.70	CSIII  math Posii  math 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 -	6"	6°u received (%: Next)  b  5°: 5°: 5°: 5°: 5°: 5°: 5°: 5°: 6°: 1°: 4°: 4°:	Call 5-4 3-2 2-1 1-par 1-3opr 15-3pr				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: £ Last week: £08.50% received: 57 £400m.  EUROPEAN  Currency 7 da  Dollar: 5-4  Doubschemark: 34- French Franc: 33- Swiss Franc: 11**  GOLD/PRECM  Ballion: Open \$352.40.353.90 Low: \$348.00.348.50  Krugerrand: \$348.50.348.50  Krugerrand: \$348.50.351.50 (£2  Platinum: \$381.75 (£237.75) S  STERLING SP  Mkt Rates for March 7  Amsterdam 3 1044- Brusset: 50,775.5  Copenhagen 10,402.5  Dublin 10,505.6  Lisbon 275.90- Lisbon 233.00- Lisbon 275.90- Lisbon 233.00- Li	1,863m allome %: Avge rate:  (MONE)  y i muth y i muth y 3-3' -3' -3' -3' -3' -3' -3' -3' -3' -3'	DEF  TALS  1349.70  PM  1351-56.8  1349.70  PM  1351-56.8  1351-56.8  1311-331  1311-331	(Bail High: 3 177 (Bail High: 3 177 177 177 177 177 177 177 177 177 17	6" LES. 757.  ES. 757.  S (%)  6 mil  5'-  1'-  1'-  1'-  1'-  1'-  1'-  1'-	6'u received (%; Next)  b. 5': 3': 3': 1': -'  CO)  75 (£42.5  TES  2' 4	Call Sala Sala Sala Sala Sala Sala Sala				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: £ Last week: £08.50% received: 57 £400m.  EUROPEAN  Currency 7 das Dollar: 5%-4 Doubschemark: 3%- French Franc: 3%- Swiss Franc: 11%- Yea: 10%- Ballion: Open \$352.40.353.90 Love: \$348.00.348.50  Krugerrand: \$348.50.351.50 (£2 Platinum: \$381.75 (£237.75) S  FERLING SP  Mist Rates for March 7 Amsterdam	1,863m allome %: Avge rate:  (MONE)  1 mith  5 5-5  2: 3-3  3 5-3  3 2: 1  5 2: 3-3  1,50-219.50	TALS  TALS  TALS  1349.70  PM  12359  FOR1  1349.70  PM  1351.56.8  1351.56.8  1351.56.8  1351.56.8  1351.56.8  1351.56.8  1351.56.8  1351.56.8  1351.56.8	(Bail High: 3 330.30 **MARI ************************************	6"u- LES.55%, ES.757- S (%) 6 mil 5'- 3'- 3'- 3'- 3'- 3'- 3'- 3'- 3'- 3'- 3	6°u received (%; Next)  b 5°: 3°: 3°: 1°: 1°: 1°: 1°: 1°: 1°: 1°: 1°: 1°: 1	Call 5-4 3-24 2'-1's l-par 15-3pr 1-3pr 15-3pr 15-3				
TREASURY BILLS: Applets: E Last week 108.50% received: 57 6400m.  EUROPEAN  Currency 7 da Dollar: 5-4 Doubschemark: 3-7 French Franc: 3-3 Swiss Franc: 11" Ven: 348.00-348.50 Low: \$348.00-348.50 Low: \$448.00-348.50 Low: \$448.00	1,863m allome %: Avge rate:  (MONE)  y i math y	### Characterist	** Bids: ** 13st w/  ***CSIII**  ***CSIII*	6"u- (28.5757- K E5.757- FS (%) 6 mil 5 (%) 8 mil 5 (%) 1 mil 5	6°u received (%: Next)  b 5°: 3°: 3°: 1°: 1°: 1°: 1°: 1°: 1°: 1°: 1°: 1°: 1	Call S-4 S-2 S-2 S-2 S-1 S-2 S-2 S-1 S-2 S-2 S-1 S-1 S-2 S-2 S-2 S-1 S-2 S-2 S-1 S-2 S-2 S-1 S-2				
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IN SHAPE 30

Some medical insurers want healthy clients

# WEEKEND

**IN THE MOVIES 34** 

How to invest and play a part in films



# TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Caroline Merrell and Anne Ashworth provide a guide for last-minute Pep buyers

# How to scale Pep heights

said they thought a Pep let, while another 2 per cent believed it was a brand of sports drink or a species of tropical fish. These individuals are unlikely to join the rush now beginning to use personal equity plan allowances before the end of the tax year.

Sales of Peps have been slowing. Figures from the Association of Unit Trust and Investment Funds (Autif) show that the public appetite for Peps may be waning. It seems that the closeness of the general election and the record nighs now being seen in the UK stock market have made

many wary of investing.
Although the Labour Party
has denied it has any intention
of abolishing Peps and has made it clear that it will not remove higher-rate tax relief, it remains possible that a lifetime limit will be imposed on Pep holdings, limiting the overall amount of tax relief that any individual can receive.

But, in spite of such immediate concerns, thousands who take a longer-term view will still wish to exploit their Pep allowances. Under the Inland Revenue rules, you can invest £6,000 in a general Pep and a further £3,000 in a singlecompany Pep in each tax year. The income paid out from the Pep and any rise in its value will be free from both income and capital gains tax.

market. Every imaginable type of financial services company can now sell you a Pep. including banks, building so-cieties, financial advisers, insurance companies and soon, the supermarket chains. The vast majority of these provid-ers offer general Peps based on unit and investment trusts. simple to understand off-theshelf products. Some of these plans will aim for capital growth, others for income. Most Pep providers also make it possible for customers to diversify outside the UK by offering Pep packages with an international element. The Revenue permits you to invest up to £1,500 outside the UK

For those whose primary requirement is income, corporate bond Peps offer an annual income, but little prospect of capital growth. Warnings have, however, been sounded about this type of plan. Robert Higginbotham, head of savings and investments at the Prudential, said this week: "Last year it was easy to deliver yields of 8 or 9 per cent far outstripping the yields on offer from the building societies. But in 1997 savings rates are creeping up and our concern is that corporate-bond Pep managers will look to increasingly risky portfolios to maintain their competitiveness." The message is: carefully check the composition of any corporate bond Pep

and the European Union.

Where do I get a Pep? It is How much do Peps cost? arguable that there is just too. The uninitiated can be surpris-

charged by Pep providers. The initial charge, deducted at the outset from your investment, can be as high as 6 per cent. while the typical annual charge is 1.75 per cent. Some companies have introduced exit fees as a substitute for the initial charge. These work on a reducing scale basis, decreasing from 5 per cent if you sell in the first year down to zero. Some providers have no initial charge and only a 0.5 per cent annual charge. The casual investor may wonder why there is such a big discrepancy. The argument is that the high costs pay for fund managers actively to manage up take the Unfortunately, many take the

duce good returns.
Investors should try before investing to get some background information about the past performance of the particular fund. The cheaper Peps tend to be those that are based on index tracking - funds that just follow the movements in the UK stock market. Virgin, Norwich Union, Legal & General and HSBC are among the companies that offer these types of funds.

■ Can I get a discount on a Pep? The Pep discount houses should be able to arrange for you to buy your Pep at a lower cost, by rebating to you some of the commission paid to middlemen by Pep providers. Among those offering dis-counts are Elson (0500 691790)

Pep Discount (0500 498477), City Deal (01708 775214) and



Chelsea Financial Services (0171-351 6022). Chelsea says it can offer a discount of as much as 100 per cent. This means you should get back an amount equivalent to 3-5 per cent of your investment.

I have a portfolio of Peps built up over several years. which means I have a big exposure to the UK market is there anything I can do? If you are concerned that the UK market is set for a downturn, you should, in theory, be able to transfer each yearly Pep allowance to another Pep. For

full £6,000 in a Pep last year, and it had grown to £6,200 you should be able to transfer this amount to another company's Pep and be able, at the same time, to invest your full 1996-97 allowance. Unfortunately, the administration systems at some Pep providers are mak-

ing this very difficult. According to Sheila Brickell, an analyst with Allenbridge. the Pep research house, some companies will separate out amounts invested in different tax years, while others will bundle all the amounts togethan underhand method for these companies to ensure that they keep the money under

She said: "We get a lot of questions about this. - Many people are annoyed at the attitude of the companies." She advised those planning to buy a Pep to make sure the fund manager has a big range of funds that would allow a switch, or offered "unbundled" Peps. Those who invest in a Pep via a savings plan will almost certainly not be able to transfer to another manager.

can invest in a Pep? The end of the tax year, April 5, is a Saturday this year. However, many companies say that they will accept cheques right up to

■ Which Pep should choose? The simplest option is to ask the experts who spend all year examining the performance of Peps from every angle and the competence of the fund managers employed by Pep providers.

Allenbridge (017) 409 1111) recommends Peps from Credit

Suisse, Pembroke, Schroder and Gartmore. Jason Holland, Best Investment (017) 321 0100) said: "For growth We re-commend Perpetual, half in the growth fund, 25 per cent in the UK smaller companies fund and 25 per cent in the Asian smaller companies fund. We also recommend Gartmore for growth - a mixture of the European Selective Opportunities Fund, UK smaller companies, Pacific growth and American emergng." For income, he recommends Guinness Flight and Jup-

# Braced for tax relief blow

igher-rate tax relief tomers to ensure they make on pensions could be casualties of the arrival of a Labour government. At the moment, those who pay 40 per cent tax benefit from the equivalent amount of tax relief on their pension contributions. Some in the industry believe that this level of tax relief could be scrapped, leaving higher-rate taxpayers to benefit from relief at the basic rate of income tax.

If the current Government is re-elected, then the proposals scrapping tax relief on all pensions contributions for those in their early twenties and those about to start work could be introduced.

Independent financial advisers are urging their custhe maximum contributions possible to their personal pensions before the end of the tax year. April 5, and ahead of a general election, thereby ensuring the maximum amount of tax relief.

Policyholders can pay be-tween 17.5 per cent and 40 per

ald Gayer, said: "One of the most important things to remember about pensions is that most people simply do not contribute anywhere near enough into their schemes to ensure the maximum pension can be obtained "

Mr Gumpel also pointed out that the six million or so

Pensions pyramid crumbles, page 35

personal pension, according to age. The older they are, the more they can contribute. Those in company pensions can contribute up to 15 per cent of their earnings per year.
Jonathan Gumpel, an adviser with Brookes Macdon-

benefit from the carry-forward or carry-back provisions. Under the carry-back provisions, policyhoiders can choose to have their pension contributions set against the previous year's tax allowance. This would help someone moving from a higher rate to a lower rate tax bracket. Those with personal pensions also benefit from the carry-forward provisions, which means that any unused contribution entitlement can be carried forward for six years.

Those coming up to the end of the tax year, who have not invested the maximum amount in their pension, should consult an independent financial adviser to find out how much they should contribute. Money Management, the monthly magazine, publishes a list of fee-based financial advisers by geographical area. It can be obtained by telephoning 01179

CAROLINE MERRELL

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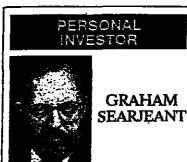
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# The soufflé syndrome

he long path of rising share prices is littered with bears trampled into rugs by the advancing herds of bulls. PDFM, most cautious of the big fund management houses, has lost business relative to its rivals by underperforming two years running. This week, the main share indices in London, Paris and Frankfurt all climbed into new, higher ground. Aside from this being a natural progression, there seemed good reason for London and continental markets to move ahead. Why then are big mainstream investors, who have long fuelled the boom, now anxious about the stock market?

Don't be fooled by German dole queues. Economic recovery is picking up again on the Continent, albeit squeezed by attempts to meet the tests for monetary union. Thanks to that squeeze, mark zone currencies are weak, inflation is dormant and interest rates more likely to fall than to rise. That combination should be good for asset prices, if not for people.

in London, short-term interest rates are rising gently, which reinforces those nervous enough to keep their cash. But long-term interest rates are falling and they are ultimately more important for share prices. Over the past year, yields on typical 15-year government gilt-edged stocks have fallen from about 8.3 per cent to 7.5 per cent. Low inflation is becoming credible. From the start of January, yields fell from about 7.8 to 7.25 per cent in mid-February before tweaking up again. A healthy gilt-edged market augurs a healthy share market, except in recession. Britain is enjoying its sixth straight year of



economic expansion. The growth rate is still picking up a little.

Institutional investors ought to be more worried than they are about Labour's unspoken plans for dividend tax and their possible impact on value. Although the economic background is otherwise benign, they might feel the impact of sterling's rise on profits has been ignored; that a 4 per cent rise in share prices in two months has set an unsustainable ace; that stock prices have run a bit too far ahead of events, so that the All-Share index sells at more than 18 times earnings and the average dividend yield is little more than 3.5 per cent. There is enough hot air in share prices to ensure that bad bits of news, profits warnings or missed forecasts send individual stocks plunging like a punctured balloon. This souffle syndrome would certainly suggest a pause 5 per

cent above today's level. Such reasoned factors are not, however, what causes anxiety among the big

players. They are worried about Wall Street. Starting from ratings as high as London's are today. New York share prices have jumped a quarter in nine months. Now it is having one of its little

setbacks, edging down a net 1 per cent. Why need this affect Europe in the absence of basic factors such as changing interest rates? After all, Japanese share prices are down 10 per cent year on year and less than half their 1989 peak. But that does not blight Hong Kong, let alone London or Frankfurt.

This is where the fear comes in. Wall Street's boom was fuelled fundamentally by retirement funds. But people are asking who has been blowing in all this extra hot air. Fingers point at speculative hedge funds, borrowed to the hilt in yen loans costing next to nothing, and therefore riding free on any increase in stock prices, however vertiginous. Even modest extra gains, multiplied by their loan gearing, will yield good returns until, that is, the process goes into reverse and the souffle sinks.

To one knows if or when that will happen. When it does, however, contagion is reckoned to be inevitable because US investors will pull in the profitable investments they have made in other markets, particularly Europe. Those who have to decide when to cash a pension might opt for caution. Most private investors can afford to leave such short-term worries to professionals: even a severe dent is unlikely to last much more than a year against a basically healthy background. Better to worry about those Labour levies.

# Helen Pridham says the public is become immune to the benefits of health cover

# Medical insurers seek cold cure

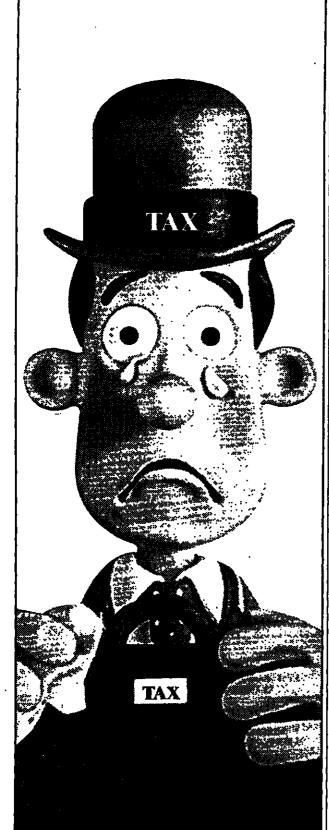
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n spite of growing public con-cern about the NHS, fewer people have been signing up for private medical insurance during recent years. According to the Association of British Insurers, the number of people with this type of insurance fell by 25 per cent between 1990 and 1995 — from 7.6 million to 5.7 million.

Now a number of new schemes have been launched which insurers hope will reverse the trend. The answers that providers have come up with in order to attract new customers and tempt old ones back to private medical insurance could not be more different. One of the most controversial plans has been brought out by Western Provident Association (WPA). It offers lower premiums in return for policyholders agreeing to pay the first part of their medical costs themselves. Guardian Direct, on the other

hand, has come up with a scheme that virtually guarantees you receive part of your premiums back each year, while Prime Health has gone for a no-frills approach. WPA's new 2-4-1 policy offers substantial premium reductions to customers if they are prepared to pay the first £1,000; £2,000 or £4,000 of their private medical bills during any one year. Couples who take out the policy will both have to pay the chosen excess and if they have any children a £250 excess will also be applied.

In spite of these hefty contributions to costs, you will be accepted only if you can prove that you are living a "demonstrably healthy life-style". You will be asked questions about your height, weight, smoking and drinking habits, and the level of exercise you take. This will be checked each year and WPA reserves the right not to renew your policy if



Shaping up: some policies will accept you only if you can prove you have a "demonstrably healthy lifestyle".

you have fallen badly by the wayside. But independent advisers are sceptical about WPA's new product.

George Connelly of Healthcare Matters, a Dorset adviser, said: "I welcome innovation but I honestly question the willingness of people to pay such high excesses. Other policies already offer excesses on a smaller scale and although some people like the idea initially, they often get frustrated because it cuts down on how often they can claim. Not being able to claim on a policy is a major reason for lapses." For those who are interested, however. Mr Connelly points out that the other

less onerous excesses also charge more competitive premiums without "cherry-picking" the very healthy. "Take a single person aged 35 living in London. Under a WPA plan with a £2,000 excess, the annual premium would be £494.95. Compare that to a OHRA Medios policy for London with an excess of just £324 on which the premium would be £415.02 or to a Prime Health Primecare policy with a £250 excess and a 25 per cent no claims discount which would cost £389.43. Both policies offer benefits which compare reasonably and are

renewable regardless of health." The lack of certainty about what consumers actually want is shown years as soon as a fixed two-year

by the fact that Guardian Direct. in launching its new private medical insurance product last week, has adopted a completely opposite approach to WPA. GD, which until now has sold mainly car and household insurance over the phone. has launched a policy which aims to ensure that small claims can be made frequently in order to create customer loyalty. It will pay out up to £30 per person per policy year for dental and optical check-ups and £12 per person per year for prescription charges. New policyholders will also be covered for existing ailments or complaints suffered in the past five

period is up - even if the complaint recurred during time and they received treatment for it. Normally such moratoriums stipulate no follow-up treatment during the waiting period.

A choice of two levels of cover is available under Guardian's scheme one which pays outpatient costs— the Standard Plan—and one which does not - the Value Plan. Full refunds of the cost of treatment are provided under each scheme. Unlike many other low-cost schemes, the number of hospitals where treatment can be obtained is reasonably large with more than 500 on the list Guardian's plan is similar to a scheme launched last year by Legal & General that also provides cash contributions towards the cost of dental and optical treatment and alternative medicine.

Legal & General has just added are outpatient cover option to its plan. Cash benefits may be attractive but Stephen Walker, of Medical Insur-ance Services of Brighton, thinks insurers should approach the matter of customer loyalty differently. He said: "I believe the best way to retain. customers is to keep the premin down, particularly in later life. premiums have been Lower achieved by Prime Health by cutting back the comprehensive cover offered under its main Primecare plan with a new Saver and Supersaver

The "frills" it has removed include cover for psychiatric and mental, conditions, alternative medicine, home nursing, complications of pregnancy and oral surgery. In addition, the Supersaver plan excludes all outpatient treatment. which precedes inpatient or day care

# Payout solid from the Rock SOCIETY WATCH A

payout by the Northern Rock Building Society, the smallest of those planning to convert into a bank, could be as high a £L400. This sum has been boosted by the soaring stock market, and recent rises in the share price of the Abbey National, the most comparable share.

This week, the Northern Rock unveiled plans for its £1.2 billion flotation, scheduled for October. Around 900,000 members will benefit from an equal distribution of

500 free shares with an estimated price per share of between 260p and 295p - if the society had floated on February 7

Those who qualify for the free shares will be those investors who had £100 in their account on December 31 last year and who had a credit balance on the voting date. They must also have had 550 in their accounts on April 2 Qualifying borrowers will be those who have £100 worth of mortgage debt on December 31 last year and on the voting date. Investing

members who are not entitled to vote may be entitled to receive a statutory cash bonus that will be a percentage of the total balance in the share accounts. This is expected to be around 8.8 per

n announcing the deal. the Northern Rock attempted at the same time to tackle the controversy surthe disabled. rounding Under the terms of the other building society flotations, many disabled savers have been locked out of payouts looked after by trustees only the first named on accounts benefit. Douglas French, Conservative MP for Gloucester, is in the process of bringing in a Bill to ensure that the disabled benefit from building society payouts.

The Northern Rock intends to make a donation of £1 million to charities for the disabled and their carers. The move has been broadly welcomed by Mr French. The Northern Rock decid-

Halifax. ed to go for an equal distribu-

because their accounts are in The Times, rather than a variable distribution because it claims that eight out of ten of its members would be better off. In offering an equal distribution of shares. the Northern Rock is following the Alliance & Leicester model, rather than the variable distribution offered by

Members will be asked to vote at the special general meeting in Newcastle Arena on April 15. Postal votes should be returned by midtions of shares, as predicted night on April 2 The North-

the Woolwich and the



ern Rock is also setting up a charitable foundation, called the Northern Rock Founda-tion, that will help projects in the North East.

After flotation, the society will pay 5 per cent of its profits annually into the foundation, equivalent to £8 million last year.

CAROLINE MERRELL

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EDON

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Season opens for watchdog trials

Time years ago the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) assumed the task of protecting the nation's savings. Its actions over the next few weeks will prove whether the City watchdog is fit to carry out this vital duty for the rest of the century and beyond.

This week the formidable Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, informed Sir Andrew Large, the SIB's chief executive, that she expected a quick resolution to the personal pension scandal.

The SIB's conduct in this affair so far has revealed its most serious flaws. The organisation stood by while hundreds of thousands of employees were encouraged by life insurance salesmen to leave company schemes with good benefits for inferior personal pension plans.

Once the abuses came to light, the SIB failed to investigate the affair swiftly. It has also failed to ensure



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance Editor

victims of the scandal received prompt compensation for loss and misleading advice. The SIB's performance has been shameful, giving every excuse for the insurance companies to delay payments. The watchdog has been expert at passing the buck, rather than taking the blame. The result is that about £50 million is all that has been offered in compensation from an

estimated bill of £4 billion. Before the end of the month, Sir Andrew must be able to show that the

worst culprits among the insurers are closer to meeting their compensation liabilities.

Those awaiting a payout may have grounds for optimism about these discussions. Both sides have an impetus to end the delays. Sir Andrew is already due to sland down from his post in May. He will not wish to leave in an atmosphere of opprobrium.

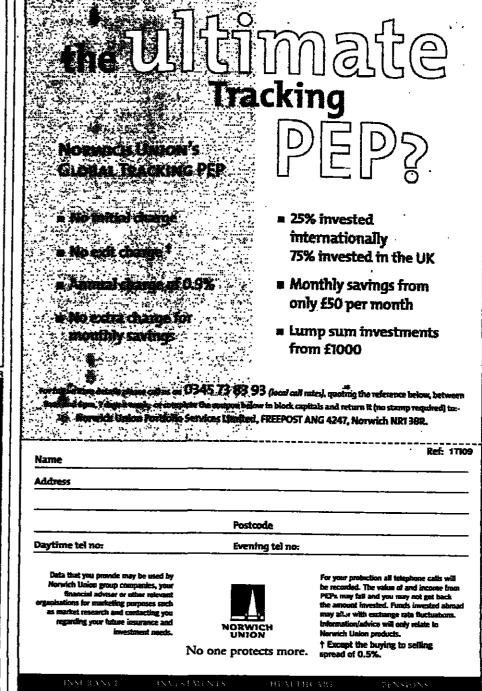
The insurance companies, meanwhile, will be driven by the only force they understand: the potential for

ment's proposals to reform the state pension scheme, a selected number of companies will be entitled to invest the compulsory contributions of the next generation of workers (see

Since no insurance company will wish to be excluded from this list, they will be eager to present themselves as models of propriety and customer care. The same commercial pressures that caused the pensions debacle could hasten its resolution. But the doubts will remain over the SIB's fitness for its role.

### Small comfort

NATIONAL SAVINGS has heeded the requests of Weekend Money readers for more smaller-value Premium Bond prizes (see page 33). But for small holders, Ernie's odds remain deplorable.





over which insurers / will - follow - Norwich Union into demutualisation is creating a boom time for the Global Investors also have six investment trusts more buyers than sellers and six investment trusts specialising in traded endowment policies (Teps).

Funds such as the Life Offices Opportunities Trust (Loot) buy endowments on the secondary market to collect the on these policies. They are also in line for any windfall bonuses if these companies float on the stock market.

This has caught the imagination of investors who have piled into the trusts, pushing their shares to a premium, a rare feat in the neglected investment trust sector, where discounts of more than 10 per cent are common. Loot, run by Scottish Value Management,

per cent premium. But the five other Tep funds from Kleinwort Benson and Barclays stand at 5-8 per cent premiums.

Beware, buying a trust at premium means you pay over the odds for the underlying value of the assets. However, Brian Moretta, investment anbonuses mutual insurers pay alyst at SVM, points out that investment trusts have never stayed at premiums for long either the funds fall out of fashion or someone launches a new trust to tap the demand.

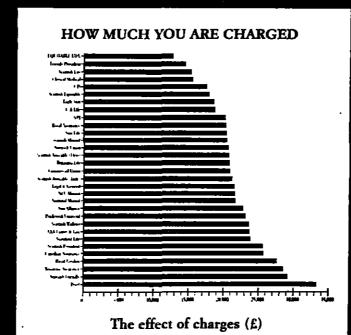
It could be worth waiting for share prices to dip, or you may decide the opportunity is too good to squander. Even if other life companies do not demutualise. Tep funds are a relatively low risk way of getting good capital returns

Dobie, a market-maker in traded endowments, says the average return on endowments last year was around 9 per cent. This is unlikely to decline as most insurers have stopped cutting bonuses and Tep funds invest in better-value longer-

dated (25-year) policies.
All Tep funds will pay out when they wind up early in the next century. This fixed timetable makes them useful if you are planning school or university fees. Barclays' two BZW Endowment funds avoid a potential capital gains problem by splitting the capital payments and bonuses over the last five years. Some are Pepable. For instance you can put up to £3000 in the SEC Traded Endowment Fund.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

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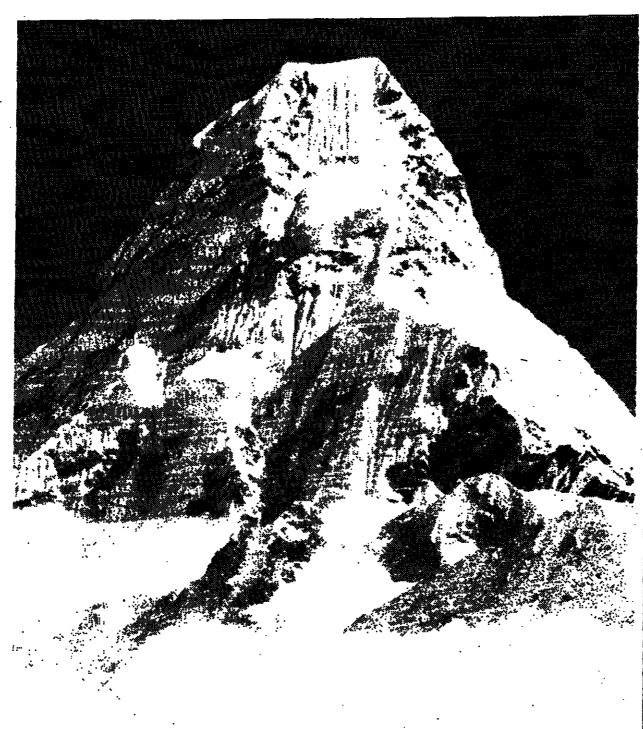
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POLICY

# A QUESTION OF MONEY

# Do you suffer from confusion over cashbacks?

policies of building so-cieties used to be of interest only to the keenest type of accountant. However, in the next few months about 20 million people will become shareholders in four of the top ten building societies as they float on the stock market.

Shareholders will receive details of the newly floated banks' profits and losses, any new acquisitions, plus details of how the businesses are progressing. All these factors can have a big impact on the share prices. Shareholders will have to try to make sense of some of the more obscure methods of accounting.

It is increasingly clear that the way in which building societies treat cashbacks in their accounts is causing problems for some of the analysts who follow the market.

This week the Halifax, reported that it had spent £626 million on mortgage sweetendiscounted rates, while the Alliance & Leicester spent £143 million on cashbacks and other incentives. However, other societies' treatment of incentives in their accounts may not have quite the same impact on profits.

What is actually meant by a cashback?

Many building societ-A ies have attempted to attract new borrowers by offering a cash lump sum up front. As these payments are a cost, they have to be accounted for in the society's profit and loss account.

How are they treated by different societies?

Some building societies, such as the Halifax, will write off the cashback in the year that the cash is given to the customer. A £3,000 cashback will show up as a £3,000 cost in the society's profit and loss account. Other societies, such as the Northern Rock, will write off the

three years.

sara viccor

Why should it matter that cashbacks are treated differently by societies?

A societies have different policies makes it very difficult to compare their profits. It also makes it difficult to compare the profits of one society on a continuing basis.

For example, Northern Rock reported a 14 per cent increase in profits to \$167.5 million for last year healthy growth. This building society does around one third of its lending on a cashback basis. However, if cashbacks are written off in the year they occur, rather than over three years, then Northern Rock's profits would be £39 million lower, and be less than the previous year.

How do societies jus-Q tify writing off cashbacks over more than

The societies point out that although they are paying a large lump sum up front, borrowers will have to pay back a proportion of this in the first few years of the loan if they choose to redeem their mortgage.

Therefore, lenders do have some cover against the initial cost. Northern Rock also points out that other societies offer discounted loans rather than cashbacks, where the charges are written off over a period of years.

So what is the solution for cashbacks?

Many of those in the A industry believe that societies should all be forced to account for their cashbacks on a standard basis. Some analysts believe that the most prudent basis should be used. ie, the liability should all be written off in the year it occurs.

**CAROLINE MERRELL** 

# Left in the dark about payment protection

failing to explain the terms of on offer have been widely policies sold to borrowers to attacked by Citizens' Advice over morigage payments if Bureaux and housing experts they fall ill or lose their jobs as expensive and inadequate. (Sara McConnell writes).

Publishing his annual report. Walter Merricks, the Insurance Ombudsman, said: The extent of the cover is often not properly explained. For the most part, policies of this sort are sold by staff untrained in the selling of insurance."

Borrowers are under increasing pressure to take out insurance with their mortgages as the Government restricts state help to unemployed or ill borrowers. Since October 1995, new borrowers have had to wait nine months before they

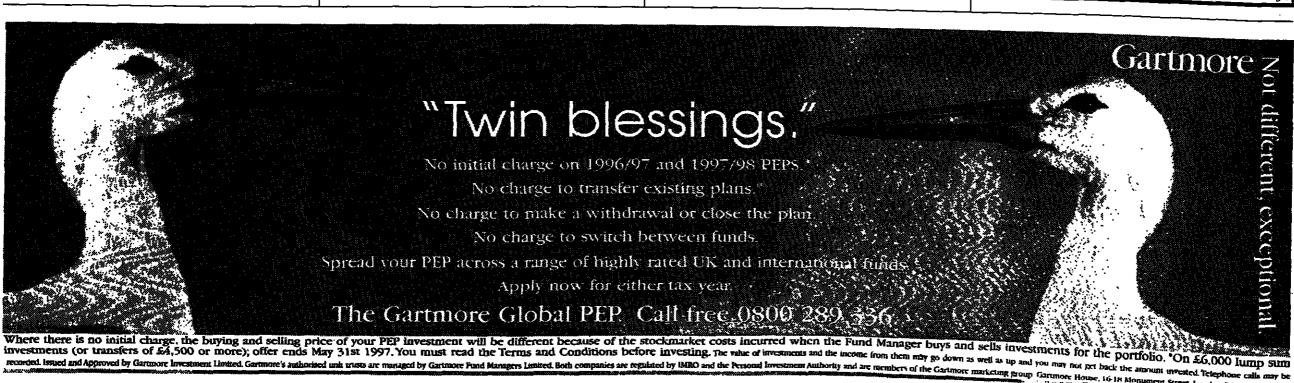
Intrained staff at banks can claim help with mortgage and building societies are repayments. But the policies

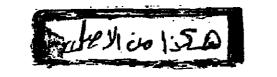
"AS FA"

Of the complaints received by Mr Merricks this year, 12 per cent involved payment protection policies. Four years ago there were none.

The ombudman's concern is shared by the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux. The main criticisms centre on "exclusion times" during which the policy will not pay out, restrictive definitions of what constitutes a preexisting medical condition and perceived discrimination against unemployed people on training schemes.







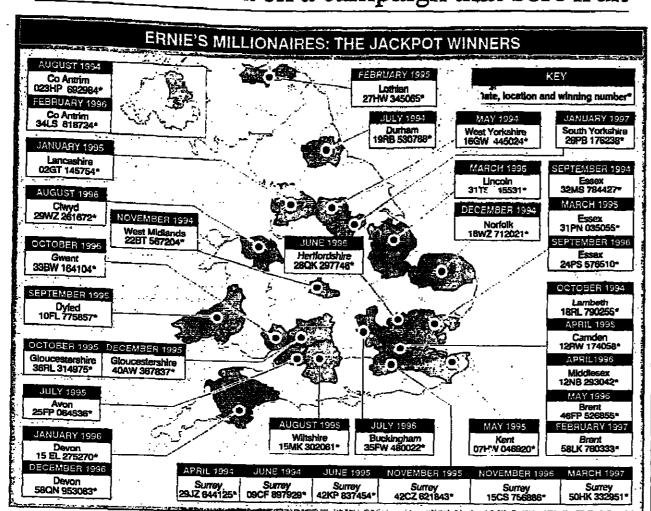
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MONEY

# Sara McConnell on a campaign that bore fruit



# Turning Ernie into a nice little earner

he odds on winning the Premium Bonds improved significantly this week, as National Savings bowed to pressure from readers of The Times and others demanding more chance of

regular, small prizes.

Many Weekend Money readers have been angered by National Savings' move last May to abandon fixed odds but pay a fixed number of prizes. Coupled with booming sales, this meant bigger wins for a lucky few but less chance of a £50 or £100 win for others. Now National

Savings is reversing this strategy.

Frank Yule, who accused National Savings in Weekend Money letters two weeks ago of turning Premium Bonds from an investment into a lottery, welcomed the volte-face as "excellent news". Since his letter was published, Mr Yule has received letters of support from Times readers across the country.

From June, any £1 Bond will have a fixed, one in-19,000 chance of winning any prize, including the £1 million jackpot. This month, under the present structure, the odds were one in 22,320. National Savings said: "Based on these odds, a person with a maximum holding

of £20,000 of Premium Bonds could expect with average luck to win 11 prizes a year. At the new fixed odds of 19,000 to 1, the same investor might expect over a period of time to win an average of 13 prizes a year."

Currently, there is a pre-set limit of 350,000 prizes. Under the new structure there will be no set number of prizes but based on the level of sales in March there will be an estimated 430,000 payouts. The prize fund, currently standing at £7.7 billion, will continue to be divided into three bands. Three quarters of the fund will go in small prizes of £50 and £100, while a further 15 per cent will be allocated to prizes of £1,000 and £500. The remaining 10 per cent will go to fund the biggest prizes of £5,000 and £1 million. National Savings admitted this week

that its attempts to offer fewer, larger prizes had been partly designed to compete with the National Lottery.

Since the £1 million jackpot was announced in November 1993, sales have shot up to £6.6 billion, more than the total sales in the 40 years since Ernest Maples. then Postmaster-General, pressed Ernie's start button for the first time. But many

longstanding bondholders see their holdings as investments, not lottery punts. Mr Yule and his wife Priscilla, who have the maximum £20,000 in Premium Bonds, used to win small prizes regularly. But he said: "For the last two months we haven't won anything. We used to get quite a

A nother Weekend Money reader.
Denys Manning, agreed: "I think
most people would rather have a stream of smaller prizes, as well as a flutter." Mr Manning, who has com-plained to National Savings about the existing prize structure, welcomed the changes, saying: "I didn't think they would listen."

But National Savings will have a harder job convincing holders that there is no secret bias towards newer holdings or those in the South of England. This month's millionaire is from Surrey and the Bond was entered in the draw for the first time. Of the 36 millionaires, six are from Surrey, with three from Essex. Ernie has no favourites, however. There are more winners in the South because more bonds are bought in the South.

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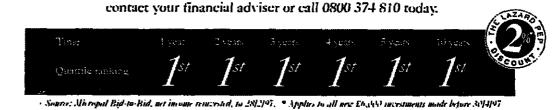


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"M&G says that it will accept bonus shares from building societies converting to banks into its General PEP... it's possible that not all PEP managers will

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# Lizanne Rose gets a front-row ticket to a premiere

# - So you want to be in the movies?

being in the movies, a company in Stratfordupon-Avon could make your dreams come true. For a £500 investment in a new production of King Lear, to be filmed this summer, you would be entitled to a share in 50 per cent of any net profits, full repayment of your money within a set period, the option to receive a credit in the film's titles. a ticket to the premiere, and the chance to be in the film.

Bob Carruthers, managing director of Cromwell Productions, first had the idea of extra-financed movies when shooting a television documentary about battles. The sight of the extras covered in mud and brandishing swords made him realise that it was but a step away from making movies. Cromwell's first venture was Chasing the Deer, a film dramatising the Battle of Cul-loden. Some 270 people each invested £500 in the project.

The Bruce, with Oliver Reed in the title role, followed in 1995 and Macbeth, filmed last summer, will be released in May. Jason Connery and Helen Baxendale play Lord and Lady Macbeth. Cromwell Productions has chosen classics as there will always be a market for this type of entertainment in Britain and abroad.

Mr Carruthers said: "We feel strongly that the films should be substantial, well crafted and stylishly produced. We knew there would be a continuing demand for the subjects of the first two films, which were both driven by a passion the Scots have for their history and culture, and clearly there is healthy demand for the Shakespearean tragedies. Shakespeare works

or CD-Rom. Also any play by Shakespeare contains battle banquet or ball scenes, with walk-on parts for investors."

Mr Carruthers compares film invistment to having a, share in a racehorse, but with the bonus of being able to take part in 🐣 race. But he emphasises the risk. There is no guarantee that capital invested in King Lear debentures will be returned, and there will be no share of the profits if sufficient revenue is not generated.

Paul Foster, 36, who owns his own company. invested £1,000 and has appeared as a peasant, a body and a soldier in Macbeth. "I had always been interested in films and was looking to invest, but didn't know how to. You hear that films require backers but never how to go about it."

Dr lan Blake, a retired teacher, also put money into Macbeth. He said: "There is the assimption that you are likely to lose it. My friends thought I was rather dotty but I felt it was a fun thing to do." He thought there was likely to be great interest in Macbeth but even if it did not do well at the box office, schools always need such films. Another investor was Tanya Harrison. 21. She said: "It was a wonderful chance to get on set and worth the sacrifices to do it."

£750.000 has been invested by enthusiasts in the productions so far. A two-year wait can be expected for returns. The first return of £25.52 was paid in April 1996 to Chasing The Deer shareholders. A second follows this April.

Cromw=! Productions is on



Enthusiasts have put up £750,000 for films like King Lear

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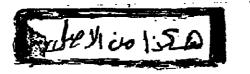
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# Caroline Merrell on the rethink over retirement

# Action as pensions pyramid crumbles

The Government this week unveiled plans to privatise both the basic and the state pension for the next generation of wor-ers and those in their early twenties. Basic Pension Plus aims to tackle the problem of an ageing population and was inspired by the Chilean experiment. General Pinochet, the former military dictator, swept away the bankrupt state pension scheme and replaced it with a compulsory private arrangement.

THE basic pension and the state earnings related pension scheme (Serps) are currently paid for directly from the national insurance contributions from those in work. No cash is invested to provide the

As the population ages, and the number of people working to sur port those in retirement shrinks, the current scheme will be come unworkable. Both political parties realise that a fundamental rethink of state pensions was needed. According to government statistics. there are five working people for every pensioner; by 2030, five working people will have to pay the pensions of three

The biggest problem faced by the Government was to try to make the younger generation fund its own pensions while ensuring that it could also pay the pensions for those entering retirement. In Whitehall, this is known as the "double funding" problem.

### How will the Basic Pension Plus scheme work?

This scheme will replace A serps and the basic pension. The basic pension is currently worth £62.45 per week, around one sixth of the average wage, while the value of Serps pension depends on the number of years in employment and the level of earnings. The maximum payout is about £100 a week.

Instead of these pensions. those in their early twenties and those coming up to employment will get a £9-a-week rebate from the Government to be invested to pay for the basic pension, plus a 5 per cent rebate of national insurance contributions to be invested to pay for an additional pension

to replace the Serps element. The Government said that

MURRAY INVESTMENT TRUST PEP

someone investing 59 a week. together with the 5 per cent rebate, should build up a fund worth £130,000, producing a £175-a-week pension.

Whom will the new arrangements affect?

A The proposals will har fundamental repercussions for those in their early twenties and those about to start work. The Government has reiterated that the new proposals will not affect the rest of the working population and those already receiving their pensions.

How will Basic Pension How will Basic Pension Plus interact with company pension schemes and personal pensions?

About 12 illumin pen-About 12 million employsion schemes. Those who come under the Basic Pension Plus scheme will be able to pay additional voluntary contributions into their company scheme, using the two rebates from the Government. It will also be possible to pay the rebates into a personal pension, as well as paying additional contributions.

Will Basic Pension Plus be any different from the pensions offered today?

Under the new arrangements, the tax relief on pension contributions will be scrapped - eventually saving £8 billion a year. This will go towards paying the pensions of those not covered by the new arrangements.

However, the Government claims that when the new-style pension is paid at retirement it will be entirely free from tax. At the moment, only the lump sum at retirement is tax-free. Under the new arrangements,



if the pension exceeds certain yet-to-be-defined limits, it will be taxed. Despite the £8 billion expected savings, the Government estimates a further E8 billion will be needed for pensions for those who will not come under the new proposals.

contributions to Basic Who will manage the Pension Plus?

Life insurance and in-A vestment companies will be given the task of managing this cash. It will be invested in the stock market through a series of funds, which should, or so the Government claims, provide a boost to the economy. The Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the watchdog that regulates the life insurance industry, is planning to draw up a list of recommended providers. The Government claims the PIA will closely monitor the activities of these companies. Keeping down costs will be particularly

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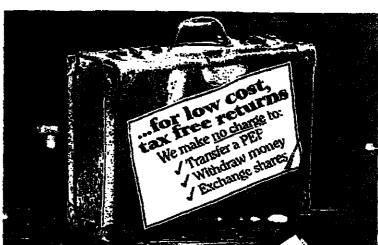
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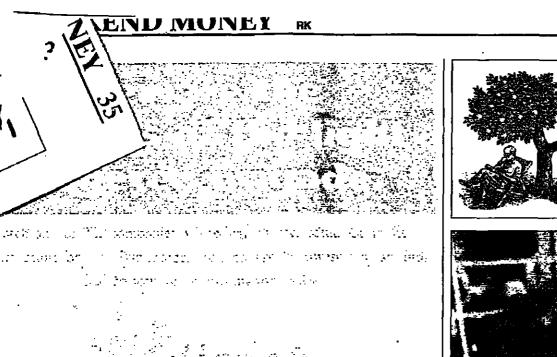
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Like Edina in Absolutely Fabulous, having a job when you are divorced is vital to provide a decent pension

# Moving forward after divorce

he Government's message over the past two weeks could not have been clearer. If you want a pension, don't look to us. People will be expected to take out private pensions to build up retirement income.

New rules allowing the splitting of personal and company pension funds between divorced couples will put the onus on couples to arrange their own finances rather than see the partner (normally the woman) with no pension forced on to the State.

But however keen people are to fund their own retirement, building up a pension is an expensive business. The later you start, the more expensive it is. A Weekend Money reader from Preston. ancashire, writes:

"I am recently divorced and

have no private pension. I

have a lung sum of £15,000 with which I would like to start a pension fund. Please advise if I can deposit this whole into a pension or if I would have to start payments from scratch, making a set contribution every month.

"I am 43 years old. working full time and rather anxious that I can start a pension

having in 22 years time."

Weekend Money replies: You are one of many women affected by delays in sorting out the splitting of pensions on divorce. Last week the Government finally paved the way for pensions to be split immediately on divorce as part of the financial settlement. But such changes will be too late for the hundreds of thousands already divorced. In many cases women who were relying on their husband's pension will face retirement with no provision at all, unless they can

ou have two advan-tages. The first is that you are working and are therefore allowed to contribute to a personal pension. Under current rules, non working peop a even if they have savings, are precluded by Inland Revenue rules from paying into a pension. Your se-cond advantage is that you still have 22 years to build up a

With your £15,000 you have a number of options, depending on your salary, Inland Revenue rules limit pension

of your salary if you want to claim tax relief on the contributions. People over 40 can put a maximum of 20 per cent of their salary into their pension. Unless you have a very high salary, you would not be able to put the whole £75,000 into your pension in one year just using that year's tax relief.

Meriti

But you can use up unused relief from the previous seven years, which would allow you to invest a large proportion of this lump sum, according to Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broe, the independent financial advisers. But you need to beware you do not breach Revenue rules forbidding you to contribute more inan your

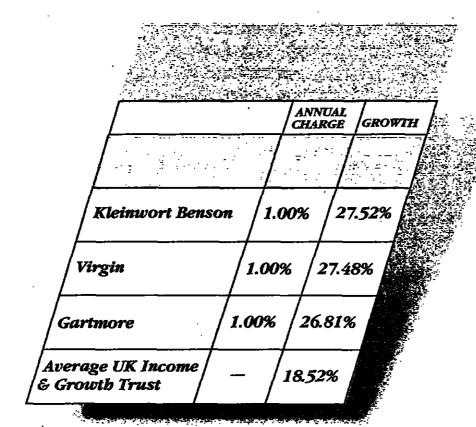
earnings in any one year. Putting £15,000 into your pension will not, unfor: nately, be enough to give you a decent income in retirement. Mr Bolland calculates that the £15,000 will grow to roughly £50,000 after 22 years, assuming real compound growth of 10 per cent. This will give you an annual income of £5,000. which is not generous. Adding an extra £100 a month from your salary would double this.

SARA MCCONNELL

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# Search now on for expert help with tax self-assessment

emand for accountants who can help taxpayers to fill in the new Inland Revenue selfassessment forms is expected to double this year.

The new-style tax returns are being issued this month. The new format consists of eight basic pages and up to nine supplementary sections. A number of accountancy firms have already set up onestop shops to help people to calculate their tax bill, at a fee of between £50 and £150.

Some of these claim to work out your bill in an hour, but to achieve this you will need to have kept details of your income and investments.

Under the new system, taxpavers will have to keep details of salary, including P45 and P60 forms; rental, investment and dividend income: income from overseas: mortgage relief interest and other loans: capital gains arising from assets bought and sold: income from pensions.

One accountancy firm offering such a service is DBS Management, which will calculate an individual's tax bill for £75 per year. The service is available to employed (schedule E) or retired taxpayers only. Subscribers to the service receive a box file which they can use to keep documents in order during the process of record-keeping. Another is TAX etc. a service run by a small accountancy firm in Bow Lane. London. called London Orientation. It offers an "off the street"

one-hour tax assessment service, although customers will have to bring all their docu-mentation with them. TAX etc will charge a flat fee of £100 for preparing

returns where the tax affairs

are relatively simple, and £150

for more complex returns. Neville Russell, the UK's 15th-largest firm of chartered accountants, is also offering a service, the cost of which ranges from between £50 and £70 for groups of people from a firm. or E90 to E110 to process an individual's tax affairs, provided they are relatively simple and accurate data has been supplied by the taxpayer. The fee is based on the assumption that no additional checks are required by

the accountant. Fees cover the costs of an Inland Revenue investigation into your tax affairs.

Further information from Neville Russell on 0171 220 3175; DBS Management on 01484 422224; TAX etc on 0171

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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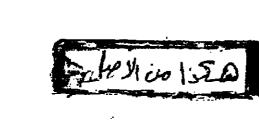
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# Merits of overseas markets re-emerge



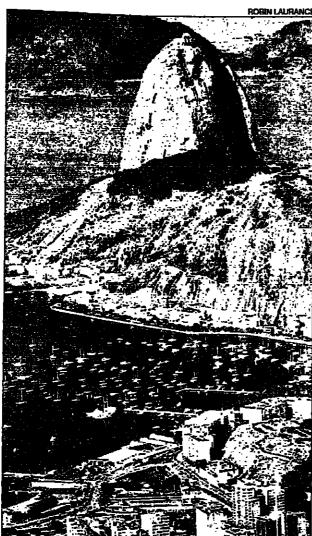
FT-SE 100 continue to hold the attention of most investors. Despite political concerns, the index of leading shares hit another record this week. However, in some quarters, attention is turning to the emerging mar-kets of Asia. Eastern Europe and Latin America, the performance of which have lagged hehind London and New Y :-k.

Latin American markets have never fully recovered from the traumatic collapse of the Mexican peso three years ago, which sent overseas investors scurrying home. Many of these countries have

had their problems compounded by the strengthening dollar, which has made manufactured exports more expensive. Among the Asian markets, Korea and Thailand suffered badly in 1996 as a result of political problems. Thailand, a popular market in the early Nineties, was hit by concerns about its banking sector.

Since 1994 the MSCI Emerging Markets index has fallen by 10 per cent, while the UK. Europe and US have powered on to record heights. But Edward Hocknell, fund manager at Baillie Gifford, the Scottish investment house, says it is buying time again. In addition, the bruising experience of the past few years may have had a maturing effect on emerging markets.

Mr Hocknell has just taken the reins of Baillie Gifford's



new Emerging Markets Trust. He has run a similar fund in the US for the past two years. The fund has achieved 17.1 per cent growth in sterling terms. beating the best UK emerging markets trust by 4.6 per cent.

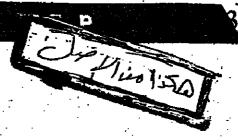
Investors who think he can do it again can access the new unit trust with a minimum lump sum of £1,000 or with regular savings from £50 a month. Investors can also put up to £1,500 in the trust as the nonpart of a general Pep.

Mr Hocknell achieved his record by focusing on Eastern European countries such as the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, while avoiding disaster areas like Mexico and Thailand. He also intends to reduce risk by diversifying the fund into 160 stocks in 21 countries, Among his favourite countries this year are Brazil, Argentina, Indonesia, the Philippines and Taiwan.

Given the poor quality of macroeconomic data emerging markets, he is employing a bottom-up investment style. This means he looks for companies with decent prospects, wherever they might be, rather than investing in sectors whose time, on economic fundamentals, is deemed to have come. With an average market capitalisation of £2 billion, his stocks will not he tiddlers either.

However, investors should beware of the potential pitfalls of the unit trust structure, particularly in a volatile market. As open-ended funds, unit trusts are obliged to redeem investors' money at any time They can come badly unstuck i stock markets fall for a prolonged period, provoking panic selling by unit holders. Not only does this push down the unit price, it forces fund managers to ditch the good stocks they can sell quickly to satisfy the need for redemptions.

Investors who are foolhardy or brave enough to hang on can be left in a rump fund holding poor and illiquid stocks, Investment trusts, by contrast, have a limited number of shares, can never be forced sellers and can ride out storms more effectively.



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### PATCHY PERFORMANCE FROM VENTURES ABROAD

There are 35 emerging I markets unit trusts from established groups such as Abtrust, Save & Prosper and Schroders, as well as Baillie Gifford, which already has a Latin America fund in the

But their performances highlight the need for investors to take a long-term view

if they venture into emerging markets. The downturn in fortunes

and the rise in the dollar has decimated the returns of the funds over two and three years — the average performance is actually negative over these periods. Only over five years do they move into profit, but they do so in

style. The top performer, City of London Emerging Market Country, converted £1,000 into £2,675 from 1991 to the end of 1996.

Baillie Gifford is offering a 2 per cent discount from its 5.25 per cent initial fee until March 21. Its annual management charge is 1.5 per



13.8%\* p.a.

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conversations may be recorded.

with Income reinvested.	$7.297$ , the annualized growth size of the UK Studemarket Functions, $1.98^{\circ}$ ,
12% discount off the buying price applice until 30.A.97.	
To: Woolwitch Building Society, Costomer Responser Unit I'd file more details of the Woolwitch LIK Stockwarter, Fu	L. Prespost (DT 98), Klingswood House, Sidoup, Ment (DA14 44fr and.
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Get much more with the

THE VALUE OF YOUR INVESTMENT AND INCOME EARNED IS NOT GUARANTEED AND CAN GO DOWN THE VALUE OF YOUR INVESTIGATION AND LANGUE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO FUTURE PERFORMANCE.

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The callet of investments and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. Taxes relating to PEPs may change if the law changes and the value of tax relief depends on the circumstances of the investor. We will not be offering any advice as to the suitability of the PEPs are not suitable for everyone. If you have any doubt whether an investment is suitable for you, you should obtain expert advice.

Fund PEP now, you can benefit from a special 1% discount<sup>†</sup>. The friendly advisers at any Woolwich branch will be happy to give you further details. Alternatively, send off the coupon today or call us free for an information pack on 0800 22 22 00 H<sub>LSON</sub> **T** 0500 691790 **T** quoting reference TSF8/3. For your security, telephone

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8am to 8pm weehdays, 9am to 5pm weekends:

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Internet address: http://www.marks-and-spencer.co.uk

Please remember the value of units and the income from them can go down as

Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

• .ou can every up to £6,000 in each tax year in a General PEP Any increase in the value of your investment is tax-free Am cax part on income is then chimed back from the inland Rowense and any gain you make when selling your PER in \$250 and rince. The tax treatment of PEPs may be changed by future legislation. The value of any tax bonofits will depend upon your individual financial circumstances.

EM As charges are taken from capital this may limit the potential for capital growth and there could be periods of time where the annual management charges deducted will be greater than the capital growth of the fund. The Fund aims to preserve your capital as much as possible, and one of the features is a refund from Marks & Species Financial Services Led of up to 6.25% of your original investment, valued on 4th April 1997. If a tworth loss on its fifth anniversary, This will help offset the effect of our annual management charges on your capital.

on your capital.

A The guarantee is provided by Marks & Spender Financial Services Ltd. and does not form part of the General PEP. The guarantee is applied on 4th April 2002, Your original investment is guaranteed unless you have made a complete withdrawal of your investment. If you make a partial withdrawal from your investment before 4th April 2002 the amount of your original investment guaranteed will be reduced. If The performance of the FT-SE® 100 Index over the years to 27 December 1996 is calculated on an offer to be distincipating all dividend income net of tax. Tessa performance is based on the average of all Tessas available for the whole period. Source, MSW.

#### MARKS & SPENCER FINANCIAL SERVICES

Unit Trus: Management Limeted, Regulated by IMPAD and the Personal is Registered Office: Michael Mousil, Bal. - Screen, Landon, WTA IDN Registered in England 225,300° A substituty of Marks and Spencer pic

reer Unix Trust Management Ltd. is a part of Marie. & Spencer Financial Services Marketing Group which uton the business name Mariel & Spencer Financial Services.

#### THE NEW **MARKS & SPENCER** HIGH INCOME PEP

Designed for those people who are looking for a regular tax-free\* income from their investment

- Estimated income 7% tax-free\* per year paid quarterly into your bank
- or building society account linvest from as little as £1,000
- Access to your investment at
- Special discounts for Marks & Spencer account holders and Marks & Spencer Unit Trust investors
- · There is no exit charge to pay Potential refund to offset the effect
- of annual management charges, subject to Fund performance
- Offer closes 4th April 1997

#### THE **MARKS & SPENCER GUARANTEED**

INVESTMENT PLAN

CAPITAL

ISSUE 3

Designed for those people who would like their savings to benefit from the growth potential of the stock market but would like the reassurance of a 5th anniversary

- Your original investment is guaranteed on the 5th anniversary.
- You have tax-free\* growth potential via the Marks & Spencer UK 100 Companies Fund which tracks the FT-SE® 100 Index
- The FT-SE\* 100 index has grown by 95% in the last 5 years compared with average Tessa growth of 43%†
- You can invest any amount from £3,000 to £6,000 per person
- Access to your investment at all times
- There is no initial charge and novexit
- Security for your family should you die

ksued by Schroder Investment Man

Limited Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EJ. Regulated IMRO. On the interset as

• Offer closes 27th March 1997

# WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

How the terminal From Mr J. Cooper Sir. Mr Lee Brown (Insurance companies and terminal bonuses on endowment bonus was created policies, Weekend Money Letters, February 15) asks why a forecast of terminal bonuses cannot be given by a

give projections for reversionary bonuses. There is indeed a simple logical answer, which lies in the original reason for introducing such bonuses. Terminal bonuses were introduced other policyholders had only a short time to enjoy before at a time of inflation and policies matured. The termrising stock market values,

life assurance company if it is

possible to forecast or at least

high interest rates and vola- inal bonus was added to give file stock markets. It was felt a boost to old policies and treat longstanding policythat policyholders who had accumulated smaller bonuses over many years, were less

holders more fairly. However, as it only dealt with windfall profits occurwell treated than those who ring late in the policy's life, it had joined later and were could not be projected or sharing in the recent rises forecast. It was never intendand inflated profits which the ed to replace the reversionary

regular bonus declaration.

different purposes. You have no right to a terminal bonus until it is declared.

One suspects that present practice in life assurance companies may stray from the theory of terminal bonus sometimes, but they should still be able to explain the background. Perhaps too many of the staff who were there at the time have the made redundant. Yours faithfully.

JOHN COOPÉR. Yacht & Boat Insurance Service.

Lime Kiln Quay. Woodbridge, Suffolk. the two kinds of bonus serve

#### Why the wait for my pension?

From Mr I.E. Palmer Sir, I thought you might like to know how the Government treats new pensioners.

I was 60 on January 27, 1997 (a Monday). On the very same day they deducted £35 from my husband's pension but I got nothing until a fortnight later, when they paid two weeks in arrears. Now I need to wait until March 9, when I will get four week's pension in

Annuities are paid in .advance. Why does the Govern-ment sit on my money? What do poor old people do who have no money to tide them Yours faithfully.

I. PALMER, Wyton House, Sawtry Way, Kings Ripton. Cambridgeshire.



#### Ethics and women in power

From Mr D.Lindsay Sir, it does not appear from your article on "ethical" investing (Investors in search of a piece of the ethical action. February 22) that any 'hought has yet been given to, the "ethics" of those listed companies that do not yet have a woman on their board or do not yet pay "bridging pen-sions" to their male pensioners betweeen the ages of 60 and 65 to compensate them for the State pension that is

denied them (and, often, their wives, tool between those ages. As these are matters of human rights, which would be particularly easy to research. this neglect is most surprising. Yours faithfully, DAVID LINDSAY.

36 Orchard Coombe. Whitehurch Hill.

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From Mr LAM. Clegg Sir, Am I in shape for self-assessment? I feel fairly confident that I am, but I am thoroughly perplexed by the fuss made over the essential records that we shall all have to keep in the future.

It is my understanding that taxpayers have always been expected to keep documentary evidence relating to their rele-vant income and expenditure: P60s, P11s, records of expenses. Miras certificates, dividend counterfoils, contract notes and so on.

It is many years since the inspector to whom I made returns as an employee insist-

ed that the entry "as returned by the employer" we no longer adequate.

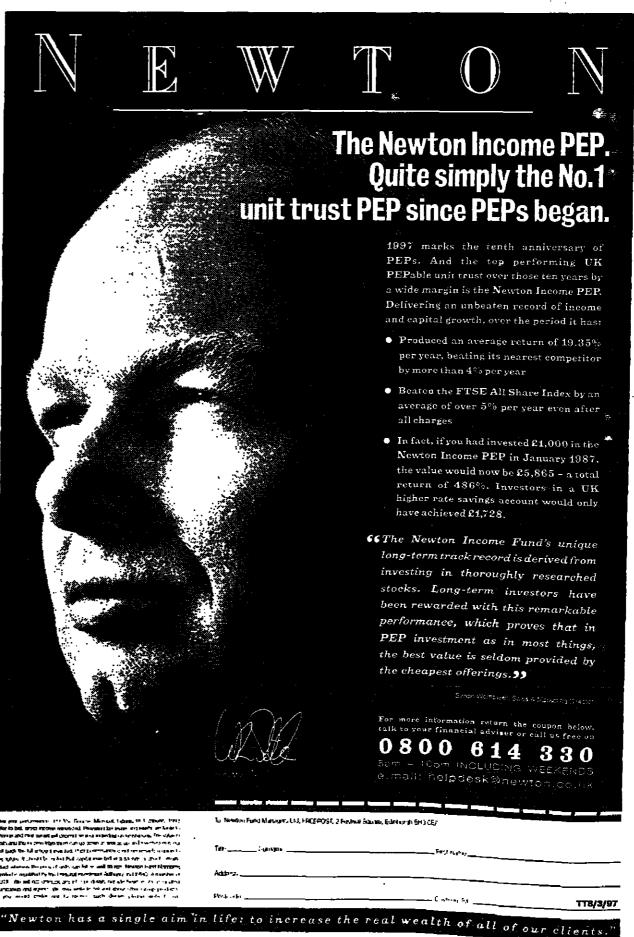
The most significant change is the opportunity for taxpayers to calculate their own tax bills. As a firm believer in the principle that calculations should be checked wherever possible, I propose to let the inspector make the calculations and check his figures. rather than trust him to check my calculations. This surely is the message for all taxpayers. Yours faithfully, L CLEGG.\*

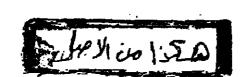
Bishop's Down Grange. 14 Manor Park. Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

■ Letters to Weekend Money are welcomed, but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for the advice or statements

given in these columns and it must be emphasised that independent professional advice should always be sought Letters to Weekend Money can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5082.







**Schroders** 

## EEKEND MONEY

# THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

# Aclays graduates to computer service

service as part of its new graduate package to be launched on Monday. The banking service will enable Offshore's stand at the Emigraduates to make transactions via modem and is suitable for all IBM compatible PCs. Customers can also check balances, set up standing orders and pay bills. Barclays PC Banking will be available from July I and will be free for three months. Call 0800 000097 to apply.

■ Portman Building Society is giving savers nationwide the chance to open three of its accounts by mail. Until now. only those residing within the society's operating area could invest with Portman. The accounts are: Instant Access (minimum deposit and maintained balance £500), One Year Fixed Interest Bond (£2,500), Five Year Step-Up-Bond (£2,500). Interest rates are 4.70 per cent, 6.30 per cent and 7.70 per cent respectively. Customers within the society's catchment area can open an Instant Access branch account with just £100. For details call

Seeking advice on financial affairs is an important consid-

arclays Bank has in-cluded a PC banking when moving abroad, according to Midland Offshore. Two free guides will be offered to anyone attending Midland gration & Jobs Abroad Show being held at Olympia Exhibition Centre today and tomor-row. Midland's Country Guide provides information on tax and economics in 77 countries. The Midland Off-shore Tax Guide highlights the financial impact of living overseas. Further copies of the Tax Guide are available by calling 01534 616111.

> ■ Peps, Enterprise Zones, Enterprise Investment Schemes, and Tessas are all covered in a new 12-page guide from the David Aaron Partnership. Making the Most of Year End Tax Planning considers a variety of opportunities that are available to investors and which must be put into place before April 5. There is also a section on how best to invest for children to take advantage of tax breaks. For a free copy, write to the David Aaron Partnership, Shelton House, High Street, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, MKI7 8SD.

> > LIZANNE ROSE

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interes paid
Sainsbury's Bank 0500 405060	Instant Access	Instant	£1	5.75	Y
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select Inst	Postal	£5,000	6.35	Y
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Instant Postal	Postal	£10,000	6.40	Ϋ́
Stroud & Swindon BS 0800 618161	Direct Instant	Postal	250,000	6,60	Y
		Notice			interes
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	pai
Chelsea BS 0800 132351	POST-tel 20	20 day p	25,000	6.05	Y
First National BS 0800 558844	30 Day Notice	30 day p	£10,000	6.30	Y
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select 60	60 day p	£10,000	6.50	YI YI
Birmingham Midshires 0500 070707	First Class 90	90 day p	£10,000	6.55	Yì
	-	Notice		i	Interes
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	pai
Abbey National 0800 100801	Fxd+feeder a/c	5 year	£9,000	7.50	F/Yi
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fxd+feeder a/c	5 year	£8,575	7.50	F/Y
Holmesdale BS 01737 245716		5 year	£2,500	7.00	Y
W December DC 0000 149660		E voor	ይያ በበብ	7 00	v

West Bromwich BS 0990 143668	5 9	year £3	,900 7.0	KU YIY
VISA CRE	DIT CARDS BE	ST BUYS		
CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000 RBS Advanta 0800 077770 Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Advantage Visa Visa Visa	0.64%NC 0.79%N 0.797%N	7.90%N 9.90%N 9.90%N	Nil Nil Nil

FIXED RATE

Bristol & West

Halifax

Skipton

Birmingham Midshires

Bradford & Bingley Bradford & Bingley

Leeds & Holbeck

Northern Rock

FLOATING RATE

Cheshire (28/09-27/03)8.41563% First Nat(20/09-20/03) 8.48750%

8.655 100.17 8.786 100.13 8.791 100.20 8.743 100.34 8.791 100.42 8.678 100.75 9.004 100.25 8.434 100.62 8.311 100.28 8.526 100.00 8.674 100.23 8.573 100.32 8.658 100.45

8.592 100.14 8.672 100.48

buce puce

100.00 100.00

price amount

1,000 10,000 10,000 1,000 1,000 1,000 10,000 50,000 50,000 50,000

1,000

Co-operative Bank 0800 109000 RBS Advanta 0800 077770 Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Advantage Visa Visa Visa	0.64%NC 0.79%N 0.797%N	7.90%N 9.90%N 9.90%N	Nii Nii Nii	
£?	ONAL LOANS	BEST BUYS			
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly paymen with insurance		for 3yrs surance	
Northern Rock BS 0345 421421	12.90%H	£112.66		£102.59	
Lombard Direct 0800 215000	13.90%A	£120.02		£101.20	
RBS Direct 0800 121125	14.00%	£114.78		£101.45	Land Company
	OSS AND SUBJECT TO C CHECK RATES BEFORE I	HANGE WITHOUT N NVESTING	her rates varia = By Post on OTICE	ble), H·= y	MAMJJASONDJ
Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Inve	sumeni a morigage Hales (U	<b>1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1</b>		ARGEF	LENDERS

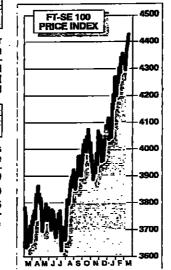
Building Societies Aliance & Leic 0800 412214

0181 2985831

0800 302010

Bank of Ireland

0118 9510100 Royal Bank of Scot 0131 523 4442



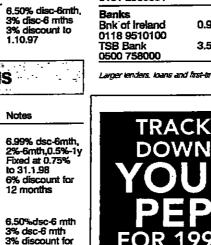
#### NATIONAL SAVINGS BASE RATES V MORTGAGES Ordinary A/c\* 1.50 1.20 0.90 10-10,000\*\* Investment A/c\*s 4.75 3.80 2.85 20-500\*\*\* 1mith Income Bond\* s 6.00 4.80 3.602,000-25,000\*\* First Opt Bond\* 6.00 4.80 3.601,000-20,000\*\* n645 645000 0645 645000 0645 645000 0645 645000 100-10,000 8day 25-1,000 1mth 43rd Issue Certi = 5.35 Children's Bondt 6.75 0645 645000 0645 645000 Capital Bonds c 6.65 5.32 3.99 100-250,000 8day 9th Index Linkedts 2.50 100-10,000 8day Pensnis Bond S3 c 7.00 5.60 4.20 500-50,000 80day 0645 645000 0645 645000 \* first ETO (E140 ji) of int tax free, rist acces for up to E100 \* Additional hidgs up to E20.000 for remested proceeds + 17at free \*\*Rates gross and vibe (Quarameed when held for 5 years 40.2%, not borus for E20,000 + \*\*£100,000 ji in addition to S1 and S2 holdings \*Taxable but cred in full \*\*E500-100,000 earn higher rates.\*\*\*Thereof rates apply DENSION ANNUITIES

Ali figures are the g purchase), guaranteed	ross an 5 years	nual ann s, paid m	uity (£100 onthly in a	20100
SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male:		Age 65	Age 70
Canada LfeLevel Royal Sun AliLevel Sun Lf of CanLevel Sun LifeLevel GeneraliLavel		£ 9,574 £ 9,429 £ 9,508 £ 9,421 £ 9,479	£10,658 £10,573 £10,557 £10,536 £10,523	£12,134 £12,122 £11,987 £12,044 £11,883
SINGLE LIFE	Female:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
PrudentialLevel Canada LifeLevel Norwich UnionLevel Royal Sun AliLevel Sun Li of CanLevel		£8,939 £8,874 £8,838 £8,693 £8,761	£ 9,745 £ 9,686 £ 9,598 £ 9,543 £ 9,510	£10,931 £10,874 £10,708 £10,785 £10,607
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Female:	Age 60 Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Canada LifeLevel Stalwart*Level PrudentialLevel Norwich UnionLevel Sun Li of CanLevel		£8,650 £8,318 £8,460 £8,398 £8,379	£9,385 £9,011 £8,994 £8,968 £8,962	£10,443 £ 9,794 £ 9,814 £ 9,778 £ 9,789

num purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smoke tee: Annuty Cirect (0171 588 9393)

3600 3600	Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose				ne Rose
RS	%	FIR	ST-TIME	BU	YERS
Notes	Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Disc of 3% to 1.5.98	Building Societ Bristol & West 0800 119955	ties 3.50	£15k+	95	3.75% discount for 12 mths
3% disc 12 mth, plus 3% cshback 3.90% discount	Newbury 01635 43676	3.99	£15-150k	95	3% discount for 12 mths
for 12 mths	Woolwich 0181 2985831	5.29	£20-200k	95	2% discount for 12 mths
6.50% disc-6mth, 3% disc-6 mths 3% discount to	Banks Bnk of Ireland 0118 9510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50% disc 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
1.10.97	TSB Bank	3.51	£15k+	95	3.74% disc for 12

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Blay's Guides Ltd. (01753-880482)



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Epor Phoenix Eq.
Property Growth
-00-Acc i
Agricultural Fd1 98-20
-do-Acc i
Astrough 198-20
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Basingview, Basingstoke Hants RGZI 2DZ

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Growth Acc 1 1802.70 - 270

Beauly Account 1 1802.70 - 4.10

Mansjeed Acc 1 1001.00 55.70 - 1.30

Equily Fund Acc 1041.30 727.77 - 2.00

Equily Fund Acc 1041.30 727.77 - 2.00

Frop Fund Acc 2041.30 70 30.77 - 0.30

Fros Pens Fand Acc 11 1130

Pens Magd Acc 1 120.00 1179.00 - 3.25

Pens Guarantee 30.50 317.80 - 0.50

Pens Equity 51.00 475.10 - 1.70

Pens Pens Fund I 137.00 10 375.50 - 0.50

Pens Fund I 137.00 10 375.50 - 0.50

Pens Fund I 137.00 10 375.50 - 0.50

Pens Many 28.50 279.70 - 0.20

Pens Many 28.50 279.70 - 1.10

### **GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS**

ANNUAL INCOME

	Kales 2s	at March 6, 1997	
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000 5,000 10,000 20,000	Hambro Assured GE Fin Assur Hambro Assured Hambro Assured	4.05 5.30 5.50 5.70
2 Years			
	1,000 3,000 20,000 50,000	Hambro Assured ITT Lon & Edin GE Fin Assur GE Fin Assur	4.80 5.80 5.90 5.95
3 Years	33,333		
4 Years	1,000 3,000	Hambro Assured ITT Lon & Edin	5.05 6.05
	1,000 3,000	Hambro Assured ITT Lon & Edin	5.50 6.35
5 Years	•		
	1,000 3,000	Hambro Assured	5.60 6.50

coupon

9.375%

11.625%

13.000% 13.375%

12.125% 11.750% 8.750%

12.000% 13.625%

13.375%

10.750% 12.625%

12.625% 12.875%

Gross coupon

108.12 132.32 147.88 152.98 147.88 139.13 130.50 103.74

138.49 159.81 154.21

125.06 145.81

146.94 148.47

111.50 · 101.50

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.25	£30-100k	95	6.99% ( 2%-6m)
Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	0.75	£25-150k	75	Fixed a to 31.1.
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	1.25	£1-150k	80	6% disa 12 mor
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 0118 9510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.50%d 3% dsc
Midland Bank 0800 494999	4.15	£50-100k	95	3% disc 1 year

to £250k

to £500k

4.29 £20-200k

0.99 £20-145k

4.25 £150-250k

50

Source: Charm Early surrender				
		7) <del>(* 1</del>	(4) (2)	7.7.
_	ski	Offer		71d   %
AEGON LIFE	ACCUIDA	NCF		_
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Asian Pecilic	218.60	230.20	- 0.30	" I
Ешгореал S4	232.70	245.00	• 5.70	· I
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Conv Sur 4 Money Ser 4	357.40 357.10	375.40 375.40		::: I
Fixed Int Set 4	Kin_si	127.70	- 290	··· [
American Ser 4	717.80			j
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Japan Ser 4	278.40	40.70		
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N American Acc	458.20 492.10	507.50		}
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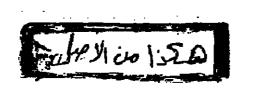
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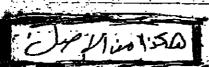
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Andrew Longmore finds Brian Stewart-Brown eager to accept the challenges of Cheltenham

An enduring passion for a piece of the action

heltenham Man apolos .d for being late. shuffled a few papers on his desk and muttered about a takeover bid affecting 7,000 people. He is 52, tall. with a steady gaze, sonorous voice and the respectable remains of a frame which once graced the playing fields of Harrow.

But for matters of high finance, our hour could have stretched to two or three. Brian Stewart-Brown could talk until dawn about his passion for the Cheltenham Festival. Doubtless will next week when the Guinness and champag = flow and his horses. Large Action and Ask Tom. mount a stern defence against the Irish hordes.

This year, like all the rest. Stewart-Brown will lead a party of Io friends to the New Inn at Coin St Aldwyns near Cirencester. All the regulars will be there: Nick Filer. whose job it is to hunt for portents for the morrow's card: Giles Gleadell, a former army officer and firm friend since a chance meeting in a betting shop; and a smattering of Lloyds brokers.

By an oversight, Stewart-Brown's eldest daughter was born on St Patrick's Day in 1980 and he had to miss the first two days. But, after 25 years, the routine is well rehearsed.

Up as early as the previous night will allow, study form. hearty breakfast, onto the coach. Arkle Bar by 11.30, meet on the grass before each race, back home via a pub or two, dinner, same again. Ask

down the years and he will lament the passing of the old tables in the Arkle Bar. People used to try to jump over them." he says. "It was great fun."

increasingly rare breed of oldboy sportsmen for whom winning and losing is incidental to the much more serious business of having fun. Not that enjoyment precludes a raging competitive spirit nor mixed sporting ability dents a disarming confidence. Playing in the pro-am event

Stewart-Brown is one of an

CHELTENHAM



at the Greater Greensboro Open in North Carolina recently, he strode onto the first tee with his 18 handicap to inform his professional partner in prefectorial tones that he had not come all the way from the City of London to mess about. "Oh, and by the way," he added, "I gather you Americans have borrowed a piece of silverware which rightly belongs across the

der Cup captain and one of the most patriotic and combustible competitors on the US PGA Tour, was: "We've got the cup and we're gonna keep it." (He was wrong.) But the odd couple of London insurance broker and grizzled southern pro won the tourna-

ment anyway. 17 under par. The same panache touches Stewart-Brown's racing. His feat of leading in a winner at Royal Ascot (Sergeyev in the Jersey Stakes) and the Festival (Deep Sensation in the 1993 Queen Mother Chase) puts him in exclusive company, alongside Sheikh Mo-

He bought his first horse from Tony Dickinson 12 years ago on the coldest day in Yorkshire for 30 years. "Do you take idiot southern owners?" he asked. Dickinson did and the appropriately named Arctic Call won the 1990 Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup. He owns 14 horses now, 12 National Hunt and two on the

Stewart-Brown recalled: "My father had horses when we were in India and there was always racing chat around the family. I was deeply in love with Persian War. In fact, I've had much more luck with the Champion Hurdle in terms of backing winners: Night Nurse, Monksfield, Lanzarote, so many wonderful horses have won the race.

"In the summer now when my horses come back to our The printable gist of the paddocks for the holidays, I

reply by Lanny Wadkins, sit on a bank and watch them defending United States Ry- at play. About eight o'clock at play. About eight o'clock when it's getting dark, they start to take the mick out of each other and you can see the different characters. I love

> If all goes to plan next week, Large Action will shoulder his owner's love of a challenge with a formidable tilt at the Champion Hurdle on Tuesday and the Stayers' Hurdle two days later. "He's a tough sod, so if anyone can do it, he can," he said. Large Action deserves a change of fortune in the championship after being deprived of victory two years ago by Alderbrook's breathtaking late surge up the

> tewart-Brown said: "We thought we had been beaten by Danoli and that was the one thing I'd told Jamie Osborne couldn't happen because we would never get in the winner's enclosure. Jamie came in and said: 'Well, Brian, I did what you said.' And we had a good laugh and a great party afterwards. Pity we didn't have the cup on the bar, but maybe this time."

Not that it will matter much. For men like Stewart-Brown, Cheltenham inspires more lasting pleasures than mere victory or defeat. "Cheltenham is sacrosanct. It's the one week of the year struck out of my business diary. "Cheltenham Man? Í don t

think so. I'm just one of a group of friends who are Cheltenham mad and want a good excuse to go back to our



Stewart-Brown looks admiringly at Large Action, who carries his hopes of winning the Champion Hurdle

### RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS

#### Sandown Park

2.00 (2m 110vd hdle) 1. SIR DANTE (D 2.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, SR DANTE ID O'Sullivan, 11-21: 2, Museum (X Azpuru, 9-2), 3, Shahrani (Jamie Evans, 7-1) ALSO RAN 41-P-lav Jakes Justice, Otto Mezzo (Sth), 9-2 Regal Pursuit (6th), 12 Whispering Dawn (I), 33 Premer League (4th) 8 ran, 8, 241, 2, 144, 81 R Rowe at Storrington, Tote 28 10: 21 80, 21 80, 22 60 DF: £13 40, CSF £28.12 Tricast £159 45.

2159 45
2.35 (3m 110yd ch) 1, PARLIAMENTARLAN (J A McCarthy, 16-1): 2, Ekeus (J
Cutory, 9-2) ALSO RAN: 10-11 lav
Eulogy (f), 9-4 Funcheon Gale (pu), 66
Victory Gele (pu) 5 ran. NR. Little
Rowley, Oneotics 161 T Casey at Upper
Lamboum Tote: £8 50, £2.10, £1 30 DF£13 80 CSF £69 53

113 of Cor (1945) 3, f0 (3m 110yd ch) 1, ACT THE WAG (Captain A Ogden, 10-11 tav); 2, Jultara (Major G Wheeler, 8-1); 3, Macouum Express (Major O Elwood, 33-1), ALSO RAN: 9-2 Cantinal Richeleu (4th),

There is still time to get in pole position for

The Times and the Marlboro World Championship

Team 1997 Formula One season which starts in

Melbourne tomorrow. For the chance to win a share of our

£40,000 Fantasy Formula One jackpot just choose a team of

six racing drivers and six constructors from the four groups

listed in the panel, below. Although the entry lines have

closed for registration for tomorrow's Australian Grand

JACKPOT: The manager with the best team score on our Fantasy Formula One leaderboard after the final race of the

season, the European Grand Prix at Estoril, Portugal, on

October 26, will win £25,000. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000

INDIVIDUAL RACE WINNERS: The manager of the team which scores the most points in the Australian Grand

Prix tomorrow will win a luxury three-day trip for two to

Call our entry hotline on 0891 405 001 (+44 990 100 311

outside the UK). Calls last approximately seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone.

Follow the instructions on the entry line. You will be

asked to nominate your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The

order in which you register your first three drivers will be

your predictions for the 1st. 2nd and 3rd finishing places for

You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One

FOR THE PROPERTY ON EVER COST E

team name, your own name, address, postcode and daytime

telephone number. You will receive a 10-digit PIN number

as confirmation of your entry. Please keep a record of this

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the grands prix where bonus points apply.

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San Marino. The runner-up will get a Sony PlayStation and Formula One game worth £250.

Prix there are plenty of points to be picked

up over the season, and up to 600

THE PRIZES

will go to two runners-up.

Duhallow Lodge (5th), 10 Kendal Cava-lier (f), 50 kcantelys (pu), Toddiling Inn (pu), 66 Gunner Stream (f), Vancouver Lad (pu) 10 ran ½1, 18, dist, 221, M Todhunter at Ulverston, Tole: £1.90, £1.20, £1.90, £3.50 DF £7.30

234.30, CSF 52.47

3.46 (2m 6t hdle) 1, FRIENDSHIP (R Durwoody, 11-4); 2, Millerstord (W Marston, 14-1), 3, Emerald Statement (B Fenton, 10-11 tav), ALSO RAN: 8 Jack Gallagher, 9 Jazzman (4th), 16 Scenic Waters (5th), 25 Camera Man, 66 Mister Generosity (pu), Music Class (6th), 9 ran. NR, Fathlegg, Imperial Honors, Spint Of Success. 34, 24-1, 7, 12, 18 N Henderson at Lambourn, Tote, £3.70; £1 40, £2.40, £1 20, DF: £24 10, Trio. £13.90, CSF £35.88

4.15 (3m 110yd ch) 1, BRACKENFTELD
(Captain D Alers-Hankey, 4-5 (av); 2, Across The Card (Capt W Ramsay, 14-1), 3, Over The Edge (Mr S Sportsorg, 3-1), ALSO RAN: 7 True Steel (4th); 16 American Eyre (pu), No Joker (5th), 33 Golden Mac (ur) 7 ran, 261, 131, 61, 41 R

AND AND THE SAME AND THE SAME OF THE SAME

Play Fantasy Formula One

Prizes worth £40,000 Harlboro

on February 24.

01 Damon Hill

**04** Eddie Irvine

**05 Jean Alesi** 

13 Olivier Panis 14 Jos Verstappen

16 Pedro Diniz

25 Williams

27 McLaren

28 Benetton

29 Jordan

30 Ligier

26 Ferrari

**06** Gerhard Berger

15 Ukyo Katayama

17 Ricardo Rosset

18 Raif Schumacher

**02** Michael Schumacher

**03** Jacques Villeneuve

Barber at Bearninster, Tote: £1.90; £1.60, £4.70, DF: £10.80, CSF: £11.99 E4.70. DF £10 80. CSF: £11.99
4.45 (2m 6f hole) 1, SWING QUARTET
(C Liewellyn, 14-1): 2, Jefferles (N
Williamson, 2-1 lev), 3, Indian Quest (W
Marston, 8-1), ALSO RAN: 11-4 Mirador,
6 Wings Cove, 13-2 Fortunes Course
(5th), 12 Smuggler's Point (4th), 33 Court
Nap (8th) 8 ran NR: Texan Baby Nx,
151, 114, 101, 141 N Twiston-Davies at
Cheltenham. Tote: £17.00, £2.30, £1 10,
£2.50, DF: £15.90. Trio: £73.80. CSF:
£40.33. Tricast £227.44.
Jackpot: £7,100.00 (0.09 winning tickets. Pool of £6.399.86 carried forward
to Sandown Park today).

Going: good to soft

1.45 (2m 3t 110yd hdle) 1, FONT ROMEU (A PIACCoy, 4-6 tay); 2, Foxtes Lad (10-1), 3, Carandon Boulevard (7-2), ALSO RAN: 12 Mystic Hill (4th), 11 ran, NR. Aqua Star, 71, nk. M Pipe, Tota:

points to be earned for each of six bonus races. And you

can switch your fantasy team after each grand prix. Full

details of the scoring system and the terms and conditions

appeared in our 20-page Grand Prix supplement, published

You can also play Fantasy Formula One with The

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Sunday Times for the chance to win additional prizes.

07 Mika Hakkinen

**08** David Coulthard

11 Johnny Herbert

20 Shinji Nakano

23 Jan Magnussen

24 Vincenzo Sospiri

21 Nicola Larini

22 Jamo Trulli

31 Arrows

32 Sauber

33 Tyrrell

34 Minardi

35 Stewart

36 Lola

12 Mika Salo

09 Rubens Berricheilo

19 Giancarlo Fisichella

10 Heinz-Harald Frentzen

180: E3 00. USF. L7 83.
2.15 (2m 31 10yd hdle 1, GIVE AND TAKE (A P McCoy, 11-10 lav); 2. Solezzi (100-1); 3. Steer Point (33-1). ALSO RAN: 100 Spirit Level (4th) 11 fan. 141, 181 M Pipe. Tole: E2 50, E1 90, E6 20. £2 00 DF £259.30. Trio. £152.80. CSF. £110 62.

2.50 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, BEAR CLAW (J. Osborne, 5-2f; 2, Malwood Castle (20-1); 3, Indian Defight (8-1) ALSO RAN, 9-4 lav Carole's Crusader, 11 ran 131, . O Sherwood, Tote: €3-20; £2.00, £19-40, €1.50. DF £31.80. Tho, £19 70, CSF: £47-46. Caroles Crusader finished second, but after a stewards' inquiry was disquafified for taking the wrong course, 3.25 (2m 2f ch) 1, BISHOPS CASTLE (J. Frost, 6-1); 2, Alpine Song (33-1), 3, After The Fox (3-1 II-lay), ALSO RAN, 3-1 (t-lav Arober Spark, 20 Incitan Temple (4th), 10 ran, NR Super Ritchart, Isl, 9I, R Frost, Tote: £8.70, £2.00, £4.80, £1.50, DF: £137,30, Trio: £86.40 (part won, Pool of £98.63 carried forward to 4.05 at 2.50 (2m 7l 110yd ch) 1, BEAR CLAW (J Osborne, 5-2); 2, Malwood Castle

PlayStation

Going: soft, good to soft in places 1.50 (2m hdle) 1, Derannie (A Dobbin, 5-6 lav); 2, Carlisle Bandilo's (9-2), 3, La Riwera (25-1) 11 ran 141, 31 G Richards Tote: 2(20); £130, £180, £510, DF £4.30 Tno, £34.20 CSF: £4.35 2.20 (2m ch) 1, Singing Sand (A Dobbin, 8-1), 2, Real Tortic (1-2 lay), 3, Corston Joker (25-1), 6 ran 271, 281 P Moratesth Tote: 67-50; 53.50, 53.20 DF, 54.10 CSE 511.66

Sandown Park todayj CSF; £149 99. Tricast: £614 44.

S.55 (2m 3f 110yd hdie) 1, COOL GUNNER (C Maude, 13-8 (av. Private Handicapper's top rating), 2, Devon Peasant (5-1), 3, Friendly House (6-1), ALSO RAN, 7 Trouvalle (4th), 6 ran 3, 12! J King Tote: £2.20, £1.10, £2.80 DF, £6.90, CSF £9.94

4.30 (2m 3i 110yd ch) 1, LANCE ARMSTRONG (D Fortt. 2-1 fav), 2, Marramy's Choice (7-1), 3, Shining Light (9-4), 4 ara 1 14l, nk. G McCourt. Tole: £2.40, DF £8.70 CSF, £1160

5.00 (3m 2f hdle) 1, MENESONIC (P Hanley, 9-4), 2, Scottby (6-1), 3, Spaceage Gold (10-1) ALSO RAN, 7-4 lav Kind Clenc, 33 Coole Cherry (4th) 16 ran 51, 251 R Alner Tote 63 20, £1 50, 52 70, 53 60 DF: £25 00 Trio 548 00 CSF: £15.66.

Placepot: £129.20. Quadpot: £35.50.

2.55 (3m 110yd hdle) 1. Tribune (M Foster, 2-1 lav), 2, Leading Prospect (20-1); 3, Bang in Trouble (9-1), 8 ran 6t, 221 C Thornton, Tote: 23-60, £1.70, £3-60, £2.30 DF £32-90 CSF £33.46 Incast £265 46 3,30 (2m 4f ch) 1, Disco Des Mottes (P

Carberry, 8-13 law), 2, Solbs (3-1), 3, Twin Falls (9-1) 5 ran 23l, 11 G Richards Tote: £1 60; £1,10, £1,80 DF £2 60 CSF £3 00 4.00 (2m St 110yd ch) 1, Denim Blue (Miss P Robson, 9-4 lav), 2, Woody Dare (11-2), 3, Frocen Stift (5-2), 7 ran, 21, 8 Mss P Robson Tote, £2 60, £1 20, £3.00, DF: £10 10 CSF, £13 70

4.35 (2m hote) 1. Phar Echo (M Foster, 5-2 tay), 2, Jervautz (9-1), 3. Solsgirth (7-2) 8 ran. 9, 2l. Lungo Tote £3.30. £1 10. £1 50, £1 60 DF £13 40 CSF. £23.72. Tricast. £73.55 Placepot: £13.80. Quadpot: £7.30.

Market Rasen Going: good, good to soft in patches Going: good, good to soft in paiches
1.40 (2m 11 110yd hdle) 1, Spitfire
Bridge (D Bridgwater, 7-4 fav), 2,
Summer Villa (9-2), 3, Caldbury (5-1) 8
ran, NR Just For A Raason 11-3, 31-3
McCourt, Tote, £2.20, £1.40, £1.90,
£1.10, DF: £5.30 Trio £12.60, CSF
£9.40 Tincast £29.26 2.10 (3m if ch) 1. Mr Boston (Mr S Swers, 4-11 fav), 2, Carly Brrin (7-1), 3, Mart Reid (4-1) 5 ran 200, 71 Mrs M Revetey Tote £1.20 £1.20, £1.20 DF £2.60 CSF £3.42

2.45 (2m 1f 110yd hdiel 1, Belmarita (Michael Brennan, 11-1), 2, Farly Sharp (6-4 lavt; 3, Sir Clerks (7-2), 17 ran 1s, 81, G. Hubbard, Tote, £13,00, £2,90, £1,50, £1,90, DF, £31,40, Thio. £6,00 CSF, £26,14

3.20 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Sasswer (k Sed (am si 1040 nois) 1, Sassiver (cube 11-2) 2, Trunsday Night (4-1) 3, La Fontantoleau (33-1) No Fidding 5-2 las 11 ton NR Descri Force 2-1, 3 P. Nelleuray Tote 26-20, 12-30, 11-50, 15-40 DF 116-80 Ino E202-40 (portion Peol of 1202-46 culted forward to 405 at Sandown Park today) CSF 255-44 Tricast 2611-03 3 50 (2m 4t ch) 1, Gaello Blue (R Guest, 6-1), 2, Gotden Hello (11-10 lav), 3, Gotov's Myth (10-1), 10 ran, 31, sh tol 4x 5 Snuth Tote 25-90, £1-50, £1-20, £2-40 DF £5-20 Trior £5-40 C\$F £12-00

#425 (2m fl 110vd ch) 1, Netherby Said (R Supple, 5-4 fav; 2, Dual Image (9-4); 3, Record Lover (12-1) 5 ran 4l, 30 P Beaumon Tote: (22.0, £1.50, £1.40 DF £2.70 CSF £4.23

0F 12 70 CSF 14 23 4.55 (1m St 110/d ftst) 1. Bossie Browno IR Guezt, 8-11, 2. Chassic Jenny (12-1), 3. Storosby (8-1). The Gnome 7-2 (-1.w 18 ran 6/2 (6 Hubbard Toto 19-50, 02-40 02 70, 63 50 DF 6/19 To 10-66 60 (part won Pool of \$125 88 cared) lorward to 4 50 at Sandown Park Ioday). CSF 6/107-42 Placepor, 27.60 Quadpot: £4.50.

Stewart, Hunt, you? Play Fantasy Formula One in BBC Top Gear magazine now & Teletext p398

### AYR

THUNDERER 1.50 Son Of Anshan. 2.20 Celtic Giant. 2.50 Clever Boy. 3.25 Mr Knitwit. 4.00 Elation. 4.30 Ask Me Later. 5.00 Mac's Supreme.

GOING: SOFT (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

#### 1.50 CRAIGIE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2.135, 2m) (7 runners)

6-4 Son Ol Archen G-1 Phason Haze 6-1 Bowton Dynamy, 7-1 Dwiste Dash 8-1 Crabbe's Price 12-1 Victori Secret 16-1 Arrigin Fresh

### 2.20 MAD MARCH HARE NOVICES CHASE

| 401 KRLAJO 8 (D.F.S) | 6 Vactorper (\*-11-8) | 8 Storey | 2 -163 MAJORITY (MAJOR 22 (G.S.) 2 Oberth arm 5-11-8 | A Dobbin | 2 (1) 22 NGCHOLAS PLANT (2 (G.B.F.S.) ) Code 5-11-8 | G Caroll 4 -F2S CELTIC GLANT 33 (S) (1 (Lings 171-15) | R Supple 5 | O ROYAL SANKER 330 M (Forture 171-16) | P River 5 3P1 - STRATHMORE LODGE 416 (S) Most 2 March 5-16-11 | M Foster 6-4 Celtic Grant, 9-4 hocholds Phon 5-1 Moreot, Major 6-1 Phone Allohar, 19-1 Singlemore Lodge, 12-1 Habija

### 2.50 MASON ORGANISATION NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3.652: 3m 110va) (6) | 2214 SYMANBSTER 12 (ED.6.5) 1 Lings 7-72-0 | R Supple 2 3613 ADM 25 (B.CD.6.5) 6 More 7-11-3 | M Benkey 3 1329 BBLE ROSE 28 (F.6.) 5 Richarts 7-10-12 | A Dobbin 4 5020 KONS LANE 21 (G.) Dare 5-10-15 | D Parker 5 3062 CLEVER BOY 23 (6.) 2 Cons. 6-10-7 | R Goest 6 2053 CHERRY DET 10 P Research 6-10-3 | B Grattan 15 7 2-00 CRASHBALLOO 7-8 P Cacetrosopt 6-10-2 | G Cahill 4 43-0 STEPDAUGHTER 30 Max 9 Tempor 11-10-5 | L O'Hara 5-2 Seabholar, 7-2 Adh. 5-1 Cherry Dec 6-1 Sella Roca, Claver Boy, 8-1 Fungs, Lane 12-1 others

3.25 HUGH BARCLAY CHALLENGE CUP (Handicap chase: £3,493: 2m) (4) 1 4212 MR KNITWIT 25 (C.G) F Moments 10-12-0 \_ 2 1122 BOLD BISSS 10 (CD.8F.G.S) G Moore 6-11-12 2 3P32 COUR LANE 22 (BF.G.S) J Dun 10-10-4 4 356P TEEJAYN RICH 25 J Golder 5-10-0 B Storey D Parker G Cahill

#### 10-11 Mr Knimel, 6-4 Bold Boss 6-1 Coque Lane, 20-1 Teojay N'Artch. 4.00 AYRSHIRE YEOMANRY CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,924: 2m 41) (8)

FAID GAT COUTURE 15 (CD.6.5) L Lungo 9-12-0
2 -411 BIGLETOMAN 8 (CS.5) E Macaugan 8-11-13
3 0652 ELATION 8 (F.G. G Richards 5-11-5
4 55 LIMBAGAET 770 (C.6.5) L Lungo 8-11-5
5 1134 FIELD OF VISION 8 (F.G.) bit; A Swindow 11-4 Ingickman 7-2 für Couture 4-1 Jubrin 6-1 Field Of Victor, 7-1 Brumon, 8-1 Lingate 10-1 others

#### 4.30 POLYFLOR HANDICAP CHASE (£3,548: 3m 1f) (7)

1 3534 DARK DAR, 28 (C D.F.G.S) J Cortes 11-17-0 R Guest 5 FASS RUCOLGAN 21 (CD.F.S) Mrs. J Gordellow 10-11-8 N Bentley 3 -P3-4 WILLAGE REINDEER 12 (F.G.S) P Caker 10-11-4 T Received 10-10-8 RAINEY PUBBLE 78 (CD.G.S) P UNINEX. IZ-10-10 D Bentley 5 0661 FARRIEY GLEN 11 (F.G.S) J J O'Real 10-10-6 AD Debbro 6 ADT ASK ME LATER 22 (G.S) Mrs. S Budbune 8-10-4 M Froley FA44 PUNNY OLD GAME 25 (C.S) D McCane 10-10-0 Machine Berman (3)

5-4 Farney Giern 15-1 Carl Oak, Ack Me Later 16-4 Euleolgan, 7-1 Village, Remotest 10-1 Barney Bubble, 16-4 Funny Old Game

#### 5.00 AYR STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,035: 2m) (9)

3-1 LORD PODGSN 42 (CD,G) P Moretili 6-1 (-) 1 51 MAC'S SUPREME 22 (D,C) F Morety 5-11-11

O LORD KNOWS 22 J Cluritor 6 11-4
ABONE THE CRASS O Roberton 6-10-13
HIGH CELLESTE M Toronton 6-10-13
AAR WOLD J Berry 4-10-10
CASTLE CLEAR IA: IF Rockey 4-10-10
MERCHOUNT THORRAIN 4-10-10
MERCHOUNT THORRAIN 4-10-10-5 5-3 Lord Podgsta, 3-1 Mac's Supreme, 4-1 Casile Cicar, 6-1 High Cell-de, Ambach, 7-1 Ministato, 16-1 Lord Phones, 30-1 others,

A Dobbin

TRAMERS: G Beckerd: 49 winners from 191 namer., 35 7°, Mary M. Revice, 38 from 161 (237°) C Thomion, 5 incm 75 (200°), 1 3 O'Neil 23 from 105 19 9°, B Whitten: 3 from 16, 18 9°, C Parter 16 from 109, 16.5°. JOCKEYS R Supple 8 amont from 12 toles, 25 8%, 9 florer 53 florer 150, 23 7%, A Bobber 12 florer 161, 19 9%, J Capple 5 from 25 77% G Coldt, 11 from 75 15 9%, B Storey, 26 from 175 14 5%, M Makeney 8 from at 115%.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

### Tribune makes it four

TRIBUNE recorded his fourth victory in succession at Ayr yesterday to earn a trip to Ascot later this month. His trainer, Chris Thornton, nominated the Alpine Meadow Handicap Hurdle at Ascot on March 26 as a probable target after the 2-1 favourite had won James Barclay Memorial Handicap Hurdle by six lengths from Leading Prospect.

# WOLVERHAMPTON

2.10 Ramsey Hope, 2.40 Cyrian, 3.15 Foot Battalion, 3.45 Chemoast, 4.15 State Of Caution, 4.50 Chilling.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.15 World Premier, 5.25 CALENDULA (nap).

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

# 2.10 MANNY BERNSTEIN HANDICAP (Div I \$4,481:51) (9 runners)

t 1-26 BOLD EFFORT 8 (V,BF.F.G.S) K Cummingham-Biown 5-9-10 T Queen B 2 3-101 RAMSEY HOPE 9 (M.CD.F.6) C Fartures 4-8-13 ... K Fallon 7 5 50-3 SING WITH THE BAND 17 (D.F.6) B McMaton 6-8-10 L Newton 9
5 00-5 KRA 15 (CDF,G) D Ctapman 8-8-9 A Cultisme 6
5 00-5 KRA 15 (CDF,G) J Erre 7-8-8 M Lappas 3
6 5222 BOLD FRONTIER 8 (8,CD,G) K hory 5-8-1 M J Duryer (3,5 7)
7 050- SO INTREPID 123 (C,D,F,G,S) J Bradley 7-8-1 L Charocch 1
3 50-0 SAPID 15 (D,G) A Badey 48-0 M D Wright 2
9 0055 REMNYHOLME 7 (V,CD,G) J Hefter(on 6-7-10 J Brandhall [5]) 4

### 5-2 Ramsey Hope, 7-2 Bold Fronter, 5-1 Bold Blort, 6-1 Sing With The Bond, 7-1 Yalor, 8-1 Fira, 10-1 So Introped, 12-1 others 2.40 manny bernstein bookmakers maiden

STAKES (3-Y-O. £3,420: 1m 100yd) (9) CYRIAN P Cole 9-0. MASTER BOSBY 93 R Boss 9-0 5-2 Solar Dawn, 3-1 Cyran, 9-2 Souss Coest, 5-1 Baby Jane, 7-1 Weel And See, 8-1 Master Bobby 18-1 others

### 3.15 MANNY BERNSTEIN BOOKMAKERS

CONDITIONS STAKES (£3,355. 7m 100yd) (6) 1 G-22 SABOT 31 (F) C Thouston 4-9-10 D McKeown 4
2 135- SUEZ TORNADO 213 (D.G) E Alston 4-9-10 S Drovine 6
3 34-1 ZURS 35 (D.G) Mcc G Ketheway 4-9-10 K Fallon 3
4 134- SILLADOIE 367 (D.G) R Boss 4-9-5 T Outon 1
5 6342 PATER NOSTER 10 (D.G.S) A Harts 8-9-5 T Outon 1
6 1032 FOOT BATTALION 3 (C.G) R Hollinshead 3-8-4. F Lynch (3) 5 7-4 Sabet, 5-2 Ziet, 9-2 Pater Norder, 5-1 Foot Battahon, 10-1 Billadde, 12-1 Suez Tomado

### 3.45 MANNY BERNSTEIN HANDICAP

(Div II: £4,457; 5f) (8) 15-1 CRETAN GFT 8 (V.CD.F.G.) N LBmoden 6-10-0

15-1 CRETAN GFT 8 (V.CD.F.G.) J Beny 7-9-0. TG McL.aughlio 1

2 05-3 ANSELLMAN 106 (D.F.G.S.) J Beny 7-9-0. G Carler 5

5 6126 ROBO MAGIC 14 (F.G.) L Montaque Hall 5-8-7 F Lynch (2) 8

4 0243 BROADSTARS BEAUTY 8 (D.F.G.S.) O Skan 7-8-4 J Farning 2

5 5-1 THE HAPPY FOX 17 (CD.F.G.) B McMahon 5-8-4 S Righton (7) 7

6 2360 CHEMICAST 17 (8,D.F.G.) 15 (Hyer 47-12. TWilliams 8

4 030 SHADOW JURY 3 (B.CD.F.G.S.) O Chapman 7-7-10 N Kennedy 3

1-4 Cream Grt. 7-2 The Happy Fox 9-2 Shandshale Report 5-18 for Mannedy 3

11-4 Caston Gill, 7-2 The Hispay Fox 19-2 Broadstains Beauty, 6-1 Richo Magic. Chadow Juny 8-1 Chemicas

### 4.15 MANNY BERNSTEIN BOOKMAKERS

LINCOLN TRIAL (Handicap: £14.135; 1m 100yd) (13) 

# 7-2 New Lember 3-1 That Maning 6-1 Byrial Action 7-1 Persian Fayre, 8-1 Amber Fort 10-1 Funts tigs: State Of Control 12-1 others 4.50 MANNY BERNSTEIN BOOKMAKERS WOLVERHAMPTON SELLING STAKES

1 5554 CONTRAVENE 15 (C.D.F.G) J Berry 3-13 P Roborts (8) 2
- 600. ADVANCE REPRIO 12 (B.CD.F.G) J Aschurst 8-7 M Tobbut 1
3 4157 CHALLING 10 (C.D.G.N Innite) 3-7 K Steed (7) 7
5 1326 AALAYS RELATIVE 5 (8) R Gurd 5-7 J Character 1
6 0-20 My GIRL 2-4 Protombard 1 5-7 J Character 1
7 230 PRETTY SALLY 15 D Works, Shape 3-7 S Duffield 3
8 ONALITARY SALVER 5 J Bellomkey 5-7 L Character 9
9 0142 WILL 10 WIN 10 (C.G.) P LAUDTO 8-7 S Drowne 8 C-1 Ciriliany 5-7 What to this 6-1 College Persons 8-1 Advance Report 10-1 Julius Redative Prefix Salty 12-5 effects

#### 5.25 MANNY BERNSTEIN BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP (£3,371 1m 6: 166yd) (7)

1 3012 PUTOSKRI 14 (COF.C. 50 (F2 are: 5.9-10) 6 Barowell 1 3015 BADOVICY 15 (CD.G. E Levellar 5.9-2 1 1 Ghamock 2 3 3-315 CHANTR 24 (B CD.SF G.) P Holluchead 6-9-0 Flynch (3) 5 5121 CALERDULA 16 (C.G.) E Moley 4-B-7 6 211 ONEFORSEVEN 110 (F.G.) J Evic 4-B-7 7 340 AZEG P. VER 157 (Factor) 47-713 Gold Gloson 7 4 Chanta 4 2 3 3 4 5 3 4 7-4 Fill-modula 7-2 Greeken terchi 5-1 Februkin, 6-1 Shaknyi, 7-1 Backanew, 8-1 Promor Basses 12-1 Acrec Flya

## COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANKERS 1 Bands 7 without from 21 numbers 33.3% M Johnston 46 from 201 (20% of Gov. J. F. June 33) 20 Sec. J. Poures, 9 from 48, 18 ft C. Daves 8 from 11 13.7% 1 Pollombey, 9 from 22, 18.2% N Faillet 4 from 27 18.2% N

Builds: 4 from 27 19 (\*\*).
BOCKEYS, F. Card. 2 features from 17 tides, 25 8°s. Alex Granes, 9 from 50, 16 7°s. F. Lapper, 8 from 51, 15 7°s. 1 Carlot. Old from 21, 16 7°s. R. Lapper, 8 from 51, 15 7°s. 1 Carlot. Old from 213, 14 5°s. M. J. Dayer. 3 from 21, 14 3°s.

AND THE STREET

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls).

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: Titles

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Value Harry

ON TELEVISION

devent ground. Colossus Of

Roads looks the main dan-

ger. The winner of two races

in 1995, he missed last sea-

son out ran creditably he-

hind More Dash Thancash

on his reappearance at

3.30: With Paul Webber's

horses in cracking form,

Scottish Bambi gets the

vote. Best on right-handed

tracks, he did well to defy top

weight when winning a handicap at Leicester II days

ago and the form was boost-

ed when Chill Wind, the

runner-up, won at Carlisle

on Thursday. Blair Castle was sent off favourite to beat

Sublime Fellow at Doncaster

last Saturday but, not for the

first time. his jumping let

him down. This is not the

easiest course for a novice

Windsor three weeks ago.

RACING: CHANNON-TRAINED HURDLER OFFERS EXCELLENT EACH-WAY VALUE IN IMPERIAL CUP

# Danegold to pay handsome dividend

BY RICHARD EVANS RACING CORRESPONDENT

THE Sunderlands Imperial Cup, a traditional appetiser for next week's Cheltenham feast, serves up a fascinating choice for punters at Sandown today. Should they trust their eyes or the form book in the search for the winner?

Those who saw More Dash Thancash make a field of handicappers resemble carthorses when winning at Doncaster seven days ago will be tempted to back the fast improving Merrita Jones-trained runner to follow up.

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Medical lines

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ntan .

Graham Bradley was banned for seven days after taking the wrong course at Exeter yester-Bradley. on Carole's Crusader in the novices chase, went the wrong side of the fourth-iast fence, which had been dolled off.

An even more eye-catching victory by Doctoor at Sandown three weeks ago which came 12 days after the horse's conditional jockey was suspended for four days under the non-triers' rule at Chepstow — left onlookers with the strong impression there was bags of improve-ment left in the Martin Pipetrained winner.

Not surprisingly, both horses have been in demand since the ante-post prices came out earlier this week. The pair have solid claims, although it is possible to pick holes in

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:

1.55 DICK MECREERY HUNTERS CHASE

1.55 Electric Committee

2.25 HURRICANE LAMP.

Carl Evans: 1.55 Mister Main Man.

2.25 Hurricane Lamp

2.55 Kelly Mac

SANDOWN PARK



More Dash Thancash seeks a fourth consecutive victory in the Sunderlands Imperial Cup at Sandown today

**GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD** 

Racecard member. So: legue from (F — lett P -pulled van. U — unseated nider. B — braught
down. S — stipped up R — ratused. D —
differentiation Horse's system. Days, since last
outhing F in flat. B — blainbary V — vicor H —
hood. E — byesteeld C — course warmer D —
distance womer CD — course and distance. Private Handicapper's rating

3.30 BURNT OAK & SPECIAL CARGO NOVICES CHASE

T212P1 SCOTTSH BAMBI 11 (D.F.G.S) (W hath) P\_Binings 9-11-6
151467 SUBLINET FELLOW 7 (D.F.B) (R McDarin M Periodron 7-11-6
22-P2-90 BAMR CASTLE (P.F.P) (Hospitzers G Balding 6-1)-2
34P-375 CHEENA 94 (D Rompson) C Snath 8-11-2
8PR323 HEATHYARDS BOY 44 (B.G.S) (L Margan) D McCain 7-11-2
40/2542 JULET JONES 11 (S) (J Pleader) J Gillord 8-10-11

BETTING: 7-4 Star Castle, 9-4 Sublime Fellow, 3-1 Scottish Barrin, 6-1 Juled Jones, 14-1 other

1996: LORD OORCET 6-11-10 A P McCoy (2-1) J Charlton 4 ran

20-1435 SLVER GROOM 28 (CD.F.S) (Silver Cortings) R Alecturs 7-11-12 4-16520 CHEF'S SCRIG 28 (CD.F.S) (Mrs A Devine) S Door 7-11-8 8 Durmoody 92 121132 LADY DASY 14 (D.G.) IP Retine) A Malditris (Pr.) B-11-7 12315-1 STAR RAGE 14 (D.E.F.F.G) (D Abell) JL Hams 7-11-8 9 D.G. SCRIG 14 (D.E.F.F.G) (D Abell) JL Hams 7-11-7 9 D.G. SOLD 15 CPRESS GET 22 (CD.G.S) (M Homes) Mrs M Bearley 8 11-4 1-1212 CHIA-YO 72 (D.G.S) (M Homes) Mrs M Bearley 8 11-4 1-1212 CHIA-YO 72 (D.G.S) (M Homes) Mrs M Bearley 8 11-4 1-1212 CHIA-YO 72 (D.G.S) (M Homes) Mrs M Bearley 8 11-4 1-1212 CHIA-YO 72 (D.G.S) (S Mrs A Hazims) R Busiler 7-10-11 9 Shymme 5 CROMO NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) T Essenty 5-11-0 1 D.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. SOLTON NUT 16 (D.F.S.) (G Gratum) R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G. R Busiler 7-10-11 G.G.

BETTING: 3-1 Doctoo, 6-1 More Dish Thancash 7-1 Star Ragic 11-1 Shining Edge Mike-Yo 12-1 Lidy Dash Carlto Brigania, Forestal, 14-1 others.

1996: AMANCIO 5-10-8 M A Filippratel (5-1) (. Harwood 11 ian

FORM FOCUS

(£4,463: 2m) (6 runners)

SCOTTISH BAMBI best Chill Wind 41 in B-runder bandkap chase at Lakester (2m 11, good) SUBLINE FELLOW best Just Bruce 31 in 7-runner

SUBLIME PELLOW DOB JUST (PID) 28 IN 7-MINES moving class at Doucaster (20) 110/d, good) with BLAIR CASTLE fell 5th Earlier beaf Formal broken in 8-mines movine class at Southwell (2m., good) with CHEEKA (3th wares of) biled off 5th BLAIR CASTLE 23 last of 4 to Multigan in grade if

4.05 SUNDEPLANDS IMPERIAL CUP

(Handicap hurdle: £21,456; 2m 110yd) (18 runners)

Long handicap: Carlio Engante 9-12, Danegold 9-11, Samared 9-8

KADASTROF beal Ambleside 3 in 14-runnes handucap hardle at Chepslow (2m 110yd, good) senutimale start with DOCTOOR (8b worse off) head ard CAM-YO 1412 and at 4 to Abenme in handucap hardle at Kempton (2m, good to lami) Previously heat Ripparou 12n in 4-nayes handles hardle at Celebraham (2m 11, good) with DREST-AL (2b worse off) every chance when lett last shandle EDGE beat STAR RASE (2to better off) 1141 in 9-names handlesp hardle at Doncastes (2m 110yd, good) MR PERCY 41 2nd of 15 to Shadow

Newbury four weeks ago. In a

race dominated down the

Michael Page Group Kingmaker Novocis Chase at Warnack (2m. good) penulbriate start.
HEARTHYARDS BOY about 32 3rd ol 4 to Flying Instructor in novoce chase at Haydock (2m. good)
JULEIT JONES best effort when 80 3rd of 7 to

teader in movice builde at Newbork Con 110yd good) DOCTOOR beat Royal (vont 51 in 5 names conditionals handicap builde over course and detained good to such Morte DASH THAN CASH beat Holdes, Hill 51 in 6 minus handicap hundle at Oborcaster Con 110yd good). FORESTAL beat Boling 20-11 in 14-minus handicap hundle at Chellendian (2ni 11 youd) with STAR RAGE (11b better off) 41 fat and RADASTROF (2th better off 11 to 15 t

was gained in a particularly slow time, while More Dash Thancash's hurdling left

something to desired. While the two market leaders are clearly on the upgrade, there are four other runners

4.05 CARLITO BRIGANTE (198P)

3.30 Scottish Bambi

4.40 Aardwolf

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

SETTING: 9-4 Hericane Lamp. 3-1 Downington, 6-1 Wilse King, Lawly Encounter, 9-1 Sounds Like Fun. 12-1 Close Harmony, New Final, 14-1 others.

1996; HENRIETTA HOWARD 6-10-8 & Hogan (13-2) Mrs D Haine 15 ran

60213/3 COLOSSIS OF ROADS 21 (D.F.5) (D Welson) I Thomson Jones 8-12-7 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 88
23-1290 RRON N GOLD 15 (D.G.) (D F Repines) T Casey 5-11-11 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Major 0 Wheeler (7) 88
55-3654 KELLY MAC 21 (D.S.) (Mrs V O'Bren) D O'Bren 7-11-10.\_\_\_\_ Major 0 Elemon (7) 91
07 JONES 6008 33 (F) (M Reid) R Bundler 5-71-10 .\_\_\_\_ Captalo D Alers-Handry (7) 89
040-553 DESERT CALM 11F (R Folse) P Evens 8-11-5 .\_\_\_\_ Miss V Holyn (7) 95
0492-043 BIGMMEEL SEL 16 (F,G) (Mrs D Stephan) J Jenkins 8-11-5 .\_\_\_\_ Miss V Holyn (7)

1998: SDCYETY GUEST 10-11-3 Captain A Ogden (15-2) A Ternell 8 can

FORM FOCUS

COLOSSUS OF ROADS 10%1 3rd of 9 to More
Dach Than Cach in issedicap burdle at Windsor
(2m. good) with VELLY MAC (7th better off) 1541
diff. JOVE ARMS hard Mallorar 31 in novice herdle
at Fontwell (2m 2l, good to limin). DESERT CALM

BETTIMS: 5-2 Jove King, 3-1 Colossus Of Roads, 7-2 Kelly Mac, 6-1 Iron N Gold, 10-1 others.

IG: 6-4 Mister Main Man, 4-1 Tacretin Tyccom, 9-2 Hickellon Lad, 6-1 Archies Cals, 7-1 Berlings |

1996: THE MAJOR GENERAL 8-11-7 Captern A Option (15-8 lav) & Richards 5 can

2.25 BUSHY PARK NATIONAL HUNT MOVICES HURDLE

2.55 BARCLAYS BANK HANDICAP HURDLE

(Amateurs: £4,065: 2m 110yd) (6 runners)

5.15 Desert Way

their achievements. Doctoor's with form every bit as good success, in a five-runner race. and who will be on offer at longer prices.

years by five and six-year-Mr Percy has done little olds with a light weight, Forestal still looks on a fair wrong this term, winning twice at the right-handed mark after winning a competitive Cheltenham handicap. Huntingdon track before recording his best performance behind Shadow Leader at Paul Webber has his string in top form and Carlito

Brigante will relish today's sounder surface after winning well on unsuitably heavy ground at Wetherby ten days ago. However, the runner that is hugely over-priced at 20-1 with William Hill and arguably possesses the best form credentials is Danegold.

three-year-old, including a Sandown handicap. However, he has taken well to hurdling and, after a couple of sighters. he comfortably landed a novice event at Windsor. However, the form which

five-year-old was rather disap-

pointing on the Flat last year.

having won lour races as a

gives him a cracking each-way chance here came at Cheltenham six weeks ago when he finished third, beaten just over six lengths, to Boardroom Shuffle, who runs in the Champion Hurdle on Tuesday. In a fast-run race, he had every chance at the last and the form looks solid with the winner and fourth-placed Rangitikei having won since at Newbury.

Richard Hughes has ridden the horse in four of his five career wins and with the stylish dual purpose jockey on board again today, Danegold

is a sporting nap. Away from the gaze of the television cameras, Ask Me Later looks to be on a winning mark in the Polyflor Handicap Chase at Ayr (4.30). Unlike novice hurdlers, novice chasers are often leniently treated in handicaps and the way in which Susan Bradburne's eight-year-old won at Newcastle three weeks ago suggests he can follow up off his light weight. The form of his recent win was boosted when the runner-up, River Unshion, won at Wetherby recently.

Working week, page 27

4.40 HAMBRO COUNTRYWIDE HANDICAP CHASE 

Long handicap: Top Brass 9-9. BETTONG: 9-4 Aardwari, 7-3 Dersser Bay, 9-2 Full Of Fire, 6-1 Samlee, Equity Player, 10-1 Montecol, 14-1 Top 1996: ARTHUR'S MINSTREL 9-11-0 R Johnson (13-8 far) D Nicholson 5 fan

### FORM FOCUS

nowice chase at Nempton (2m, good) NAONTECOT tailed off 4th of 5 to Air Shot in chase at Chaoston
12m 31 110yd, soft), FULL OF FIRE best Shining
Logist 11/4 in 7-runner handicap chase at Exeler (2m
77 110yd, soil) DENVER BAY beal Hall Of Tullow

head in 6-runner handicap thase over course and distance (good). SAMLEE 26(4) 4th of 9 to Lord Gyllene in kandicap chase at Utsouetre (4th 21, good). EQUITY PLAYER beat Big Ben Don 122 in 6-runner handicap chase at Wentson (3m, good). Salection: EQUITY PLAYER

#### 5.15 H M S SANDOWN STANDARD OPEN MATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,406: 2m 110yd) (21 runners)

u.	DOMODERO 31 (DES L. COOKER) U MORE 3-11-4	
	EAGLE DANCER (E Rulet) Lady Herries 5-17-4 R Dunwoody	
	EXPRESS AGAIN (T King) M Haynes 5-11-4	
	GOLDEN EAGLE (P Otdfield) N Henderson 5-11-4 M A Fitzgerald	
	HOMME DE FER (Mess M Veneztatedon) K Bailey 5-11-4 C Scudder (7)	
	KAPCO (Upland: Bloodstock) C Brooks 5-11-4	
	LIFT THE LATCH (G Paynel Mrs   Michie 5-11-4 L Harvey	
	LOVELY OUTLOOK (Mrs P Carson) R Carson 5-11-4	
D-R	MILL BAY SAM 7 (D Robbins) Mrs M Jones 5-11-4 D Byrtse	
	MODERRAKER'S MIRAGE 16 (W Perty) D Economic 6-11-4	
	SECURION GALE (Mrs R Proctor) II Henderson 5-11-4 J R Kavanagh	
0	TATIBAG 98 (R Smath) R Smith 5-11-4 L Surface (7)	
-	TIMELY MAGEC (J. Newtle) J. Newtle 5-11-4 A. P. McCoy	
	PLUMPTON WOOD (D Stockbarl) J Serveti-Osbourne 5-10-13 N Williamson	
	CLARE'S SPRING (Field:pring Racing) R Hodges 4-10-10 T Dascombe (3)	
	DESERT WAY (Winton Bloodstock) Miss. H Knight 4-10-10 J Culloty	
	FORTUNES FLIGHT (Mrs A Garrett) J King 4-10-10 T J Marphy	
	SATELLITE EXPRESS (Snarp Racing) B Smart 4-10-10 W Marston	
30	SIR PRIZE 14 (M. Jackson Bloodstock) G Balding 4-10-10 B CREDNI	
30	KABYLE OUEST (A Palent) R Declar 4-10-5 X Aizporto (7)	
	PROTES BUSINES OF FRANCE OF BUSINESS OF THE PROPERTY (1)	

BETTING: 7-2 Desert Way, 4-1 Golden Eagle, 5-1 Borodino, 6-1 Section Gale, 7-1 Eagle Dancer, 8-1 Homme De Fer 10-1 Napon, 12-1 other:

1996 MARICHING MARCUIS 5-11-4 R Dunwoody (9-2) N Chance 22 ran

### Course specialists

SANDOWN PARK: Trainers: D Nicholson, 31 winners from 90 runners, 34.4%; Mrs M Reveley, 7 from 24, 29.2%; J Old, 11 from 39, 28.2%; R Hodges, 6 from 27, 22.2%, Miss H Anight, 6 from 30, 20.0%; S Dow, 5 from 25, 20.0%. Jockeys: R Durwoody, 31 from 105, 29.5%. J Raitton, 3 from 14, 21.4%; Major O Eliwood. 3 from 15, 20.0%, J Titley, 4 from 21, 19.0%; L Harvey, 4 from 22, 18.2%; A P McCoy, 9 from 50, 18.0%

CHEPSTOW: Trainers: D Nicholson, 16 winners from 55 runners, 29.1%; M Pipe, 51 from 197, 25.9%, J Old, 7 from 34, 20.6%; P Nicholls, 12 from 63, 19.0%, R Dickin, 3 from 22, 13.6%, A Turnet, 4 from 30, 13.3%, Jockeys: A P McCov, 21 winners from 74 ndes, 28.4%, R Durwoody, 30 from 118, 25.4%; N Williamson, 4 from 18.22.2%, C Llewellyn, 15 from 92, 16.3%; J Kavanagh, 4 from 27, 14.8%, R Johnson, 7 from 57, 12.3%

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Wolverhampton 2.10 Rennyholme 4.50 Julia's

# Jovie King can further reward shrewd Buckler

CHEPSTOW **BBC1** 

1.15: Selatan showed enough last time to merit the vote. David Gandolfo's representative weakened on the runin at Haydock but should be sharper now. Although Potentate loves this track, he looks harshly handicapped. The same applies to Marius. while Lake Kariba might prefer a stiffer test. The danger is Kingdom Of Shades, who may have found the ground too quick when disappointing at

1.45: Giventime can make the most of a significant weight concession from General Wolfe. Andy Turnell's gelding, who holds Spuffingion on a recent encounter, thrives on soft ground and has winning form over the course and distance. An easy surface is a must for Belmont King, who beat Trying Again over this course three months ago. Although stamina is his forte, he faces a stifler task from a 71b higher mark. Buckboard Bounce and Bishops Hall, both returning after lengthy absences, are being aimed at

the Grand National.

rlaydock most recently.

2.15: What's The Verdict has won both his starts over hurdles without suggesting he is out of the ordinary. There should again be little between Break The Rules and Royal Scimitar on recent Haydock running. They have prospects but preference is for Motoqua, an inform mare from an in-form stable. Her ability to stay begond two miles is an asset in this competitive race.

#### JULIAN MUSCAT

#### SANDOWN PARK CHANNEL 4

2.55: Jovie King arguably needs to improve to win here, but there are sound reasons for thinking he is up to the task. After making his debut over hurdles, the fiveyear-old was bought by Bob Buckler on the recommendation of Brendan Powell, and he showed much improved form to win a small race at Fontwell last month. He was not fully wound up on that occasion and his shrewd trainer expects considerable improvement, especially on

### RICHARD EVANS

Nap: DANEGOLD (4.05 Sandown Park) Next best: Ask Me Later (4.30 Ayr)

Turnell: Chenstow chance and Sublime Fellow looks

the main danger.

#### 4.05: see left.

4.40: Aardwolf has solid claims judged on his early season form, but has slightly lost his way. Full Of Fire returns after an 80-day absence and Denver Bay is preferred. He relished the step up in trip over course and distance last time when outbattling Hill Of Tullow, with the third horse more than 20 lengths away. The larly well that day and looks capable of following up off a 4lb higher mark. Equity Player, who should appreciate the stiff finish, is not out

RICHARD EVANS

### RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY; Plumpton (first race, 2.10) Stratford (2.20), Taunton (2.00) TUESDAY: Cheltenham (C4, 2'00), Fontwell Park (2.10), Sedgelield (2.20) WEDNESDAY: Chettenhem (C4, 2.35), Huntingdon (1.50), Newton Abbol THURSDAY: Cheltenham (C4, 2.00), Hexham (2.25), Lingfield Park (AW,

FRIDAY: Fakenham (2.10), Folkeston (2.00), Southwell (AW, 2.20) SATURDAY: Hereford (2 20), Lingfield Park (2 10), Newcastle (2 15), Uttoxeler (C4, 12 45), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00).



# Northern Bluff pick of marathon card

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS The rider's protests of inno-

cence were ignored by the stewards who deemed he had

committed a cardinal sin.

Cardinal Red, who Sansome

rides today, would be an appropriate winner of the men's open and the pair

deserves some luck after being

badly hampered on their

Noel Wilson and Alastair

Crow are in good heart after

riding four winners each last

weekend. Wilson holds a win-

ning chance on the talented

five-year-old Castletown

Count for Mick Easterby at

the Derwent, while Crow is

certain to have a busy week-

end, riding at the Tanatside today and Blankney tomor-

row. Killatty Player and

Aralier Man are among his

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Avon Vale at Barbury Castle, 4m north of Marborough (first race 1.00); Brecon & Talybont, Lanftynach, 3m S of Brecon (12.00). Cumberland Farmers, Dalston, 4m S of Carisle (12.30); Derwent, Charm Park, 6m S of Scarborough (12.00); North Ledbury, Upton-on-Severn (12.30); North Nortolk, Higham, 8m NE of Colchester (12.30); Caldey, Newton Bromswold, 3m SE of Rushden (1.00); South Gornwell, Gt Trethew, 3m SE of Liskeard (12.00); South East Hunts Cub. Charing, 12m E of Maidistone (1.00); Tanatiside, Eyton-on-Severn, 7m SE of Strewsbury (12.00).

SC OF STREWSDUTY (12.00).

TOMORROW: Blankney at Southwell, Inside at NH course (12.30); Stati College & RMA, Tweseldown, 3m W of Aldershol (12.30).

fancied mounts.

latest start when pulling up.

RACEGOERS in Wales have had a raw deal from the fixture list with Brecon & Talybont only the second meeting to be held there so far this season.

Not surprisingly, there was a huge entry for today's meeting and a 12-race card is the result, a stamina test for the hardiest enthusiast. Northern Bluff, one of the brightest talents in the sport, can take the men's open under Jamie

If there has been too little racing to date in Wales, East Anglia has held racing on a weekly basis since the season started. The downside of that is overkill and today's North Norfolk Harriers fixture is short of a star or two.

Andrew Sansome faces a test of character, and some legpulling, at the meeting, having been fined £150 for "violent and improper conduct at Leicester on Wednesday. It could hardly be a case of "whip misuse" although he was found guilty of damaging an ambulance mirror with his

"I simply put my hand up to stop the ambulance to get a lift back," Sansome said, having lallen in the country. "The driver speeded up and caught my hand."

#### **CHEPSTOW** THUNDERER

1.15 Potentate .45 Belmont King 2.15 Gods Squad

2.45 Scoresheel 3.20 Seattle Alley 3.50 Donjuan Collonges

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) 1.15 THE RACING POST FOR CHELTENHAM HANDICAP

HURDLE (£5,638: 2m 4i 110yd) (8 runners) BETTING, 11-4 Kingdom Of Shades, 3-1 Selatan 9 / Potentale 5 1 Maries 1-1 Lake harder 3 f Licentage

1996: MAPPHER'S AR 9-11-12 A P McCov (11-4) 11-peaming a ha-FORM FOCUS

POTENTATE best effort beat Phas From Futtiv 61 in 6-numer handicap burdle hote (2m 110/d. 000d to soll) KINGDOM OF SHADES 11 2nd of 7 to Copper Boy in handicap hurdle at Need, by Can 51, opod) on penaltimale start LAKE KARIBA 25/61 5th of 11 to Lord McMurrough in landicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 51, good to soll MARIUS beat

Ameral ligerith 171 in 6 manes training, handle at lookestone (2m if 110pg quest to suft). PHRM F-SPLASM beat faile. Of Landles 14 money training if Woman, (2m 4) (10pg quest) profitancie "fail SELATAN (2m) and of 13 to (cc)" in act in handlesh bandle at Handlesh (2m) 4 mondi. Schedom POLEMIALL

:: BBC1 1.45 TOTE TEN TO FOLLOW HANDICAP CHASE (£8,432: 3m 2i 110yd) (7 runners)

| UD1-241 | BISHOPS HALL 164 (D.F.G.S.) | 1 Canada (P.R. - 1) | 17 0 | N. Williamson 2167/P | BELMONT 1883 34 (C.S.) (the P. Roca) | "Net note (P.F.) | 17 0 | A.P. McCoy 2257/10 | BUCKBOARD BOUNCE 483 (F.G.S.) (5) (by here) | Variable (F.F.) | 18 0 | P. Carborry 21172-1 | CANBRAL WOLFE 15 (G.S.) (Notions for fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | 34 8 11 | Buttanood (P.F.) | 14 0 | A.P. McCoy 21172-1 | CANBRAL WOLFE 15 (G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) | 19 0 | A.P. McCoy 21 (C.G.S.) (10 (the policy of Fariable (P.F.) (10 (the p Long handicap: Spullington 9-11, See Enguigh 9-10 BETTING: 7-4 General Work, 3-1 Governme, 5-2 Retrood Early in the attacked Control of Abstract that his Sputtington, See Enough 1998: MAJOR BELL 8-11-4 M Malace . . . . A Mullion 7-19

FORM FOCUS

number handscap chase at Newtony (2m 4), good to hands the start GENERAL WILLE best Selection GRYFNIMS.

BISHOPS HALL best Anabatic 19st in the 11number grade B Nerry National Handleap Clase of
Listonel Circ, good, BCLAKONT (Mill best foreign
Again 19st in the 7-number grade B Rehieural Clase
ten (3m, good in soli) on penulimate stat
BUCKBOARD BOUNCE best Anabatic 51 in 6

10 to the period of the solid on penulimate stat
BUCKBOARD BOUNCE best Anabatic 51 in 6

I MICH CHEST OF THE WHITE |

#### 2.15 PETER O'SULLEVAN NOVICES HURDLE (5-Y-O £13,875 2m 110yd) (9 runners)

BBC1 4.4 ASCOUTE LIMIT 26 (# Woolkin) J Galord 11-5 P Hide 82
04/211 BREAK THE RILLES 15 (D.G) (A Lomas) M Page 11-5 P Larberry
201-0 BluRN OUT 40 (S) (The Af Yarry Pagnershup) J Fasce 11-5 P Carberry
110-21 GloS SOULAP 9 (D.S.) (R Kishland) J Machiel 11-5 M Williamston 93
26-313 MO PATTERN 14 (G) (h Higoent C1 Moore 11-5 D Gallaghaw 88
410 PERCY BRAILTHANTE 31 (D.P. (Gaz. Foj Raring Syndh Miss P Whitelis 11-5 C Liewellyn 89
2 ROYAL SCHATAR 15 (Highway Busness, Systems Liul) Mrs A Portel 11-5 R Durmanody 90
11 WHATS THE VERDICT 30 (D.G.) G O'Fanelly A O'Bren (Re) 11-5 R J. C. F Swaten 83
211/21 MOTOGUA 39 (F) (Mrs C Smith) D Nighelson 11-0 R Juliuson. 89

BETTING: 5.4 What's the Verdict 5-1 Middings. Gods Squad 6-1 Break The Rules, 8-1 No Patieno, 10-4 Royal Scientis: 14 1 Absolute Limit 16-1 others 1996 ONERTRAENTO 5-11-5 E Husband (5-1) J Macker 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

RREAN THE RULES beat ROYAL SCINITAR (51b) maideo handle at furdicer (2m. good to firm) with work off) its in more handle at Haydook (2m. good) GOOS SOUAD head Good Siber 1 hit in 11-mores more rundle at Weltherthy (2m. heavy) NO PATTERN beat Conter Chief 1 hit in 11-mores maideo handle at Prompton (2m. I), good PERCY BRATHWAITE beat Fitzwilliam 1 hit mores handle at Warrack (2m. did 1 floyd, good to firm) selections. 2.45 LLANGIBBY NOVICES CHASE (52,908: 2m 3t 110yd) (6 runners)

#31-122 SOURESHEET 11 (BFF.G) (Pel-mel Patries) J Gebord 7-11-9 ... P Hide 90 (PDC-P4 (MANCKS WEW 23 (F lucker) F Tucker B-11-2 ... M Continus (7) 62 (ACC) 494-459 FFLLOO 36 (Art. J Foreste Headrocker) F George 8-11-2 ... P Carberry 74 (ATF-CO MYSTIC ISLE 29 (S) (Alis J Menton) N Gasades 7-11-2 ... C Llewellyn 66 (PAPP SAUCY S WOLF 78 (APP J Brooks Mar & Brooks 7-11-2 ... M Sharrati U.S.S-I WITH IMPURATY 24 (G.S) (Goest Leasing Co Ltd) P Nichols 8-11-2 R Johnson (B) Bi 170MC Tears Comesheet 11 4 With Impurely, 4-1 Mystic Isle, 10-1 Felloo, 14-1 Durmets View, 50-1 Souty's 1996 PETE THE PARSON 7-11-9 J Osboine (5-2) J Old 8 ran

3.20 TOTE QUADPOT JUVENILE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(4 Y-O \$3,488 2m 110yd) (5 iumers) 

BELLINNE TO 17 Influence Protest 2-1 Sha Gaa, 4-1 Species Green, 8-1 Seattle Alley, 25-1 Corse-On In. 1996 SHEPHERDS REST 10-12 A fromton (10-1) S Mellor 8 nm

3.50 COTSWOLD VALE CHASE (Handicap £3,488: 2m 3f 110yd) (7 runners)

F-50C21 KINKS CHERRY 8 (CD.S.) (1 Smalled) J Oki 9-11-10. ... ... C Linerilyo 97
W62-101 MOJAN ARRUW 8 (F.S.) (1 & J Richards) M Pipe 9-11-5 ... C Manufa 95
115-FP4 JACOB'S WITE 18 (F.S.) (The Black Sheep Flock) P Webber 7-11-4 ... R Ballarry 89
0F0.5-6 D.N.LIJAN COLLONGES 355 (S) (R Option) T Forster 6-11-4 ... P Carbony 88
13PP0 BELIJABN LANCASTER 23 (C.G.S.) (M Golden) M Griffen 13-10-10 ... M Griffens (7) 95
3F224 PFRSGM SWORD 781 (S) (Ford Farm Razong) D Mchabon 11-16-7 . R Massey (3) --34-2-3 CHEFT MASTER 8 (BF) (Vice Adment Sn Fixtory Tablet) R Buckler 9-10-5 B Powell (9) NETTING 9 4 today Anna 1-1 Person Sword 7 2 Kings Chemy 6-1 Court Master, 8-1 Dengtan Collonges, 10-1 and 176-1 1-1 Recommendation

1996 BELLS LEFE 7 10-7 G Tormey (5-2) P Hobbs 7 can

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# Kipketer breaks world record in men's 800m heat

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN PARIS

WILSON KIPKETER, a Kenyan-born Dane, wasted no time yesterday in becoming the first athlete to profit from the introduction of bonus payments for world records at world championships. He stepped on to the track for a first-round heat at the world indoor championships in the Palais Omnisports here and knocked off a world record in the 800 metres.

For his solo run, Kipketer earned \$50,000 (about £31,000) with the promise of \$50,000 more if he wins the title. Never before in a world championships, indoor or out, has a track athlete set a world record in an individual event in a heat.

Kipketer sliced almost a second off the world record of lmin 44.84sec, held by Paul Ereng, since 1989. Kipketer might not have been so bad record to a compatriot, but

The switch of nationality

MEN: 60m: Final: 1, C Papadias (Gr)
6.50sec. 2. M Green Liam) 6.51.3. D Exmed
Nogeral 6.52.4. R Stewart Liam) 6.55.5. B
Sum (Can) 8.57:8. P Lougian (Swe) 6.61
Did not quality: J Gerdener (GB), fourth in
second semi-final. J Livingston (GB), fixed in
7.52.98:3. F Beyles (Eh) 7.53.24; 4, E
Lahsson (Mon) 7.53.53. 8. I Germe (GB)
7.56.30:1, M Carroll (in) 8.95.349. Heat
two: 1, H Gebraedasale (Eh) 7.50.14, 2, I
Sohn (Mon) 7.50.42, 3. P Black (Ren) 7.51.53.
4. J Mayorck (GB) 7.51.69 Shott Group one:
1. J Godran (US) 20.46m; 2, M Habrart (Fin)
20.04.3. M Marrinez (Sp) 19.96; 4, K Hauge
(Nor) 19.78.5. Y Becondo (Ukn) 19.62.6, C
Fantari (II) 19.59. Did not qualify: 9, M
Proctor (GB) 19.21. Group two: 1. O Burder
(Kar) 20.69, 2. A Harju (Fin) 20.04; 3, M
Menc, CZ; 20.01; 4, A Bagach (Ukn) 19.91, 5.
P Dal Sogio (M) 19.26, 6, M Parin (US)
19.81 Did not qualify: 9, M Senson (GB)
18.30 Pole vault Group one: 1, R Botha
(SA) 5,70m. 2, T Lobinger (Ser) 5.70, 3, I
Polspownth (Kar) 5.65, 4, T Barthel (Nor)
5.65. 5, V Stropalez (Russ) 5.65, 2, M
Tarssov (Russ) 5.65, 10ng jumps Group one: 1,
V Sournov (Plass) 8.30m, 2, R Ducros (Fi7.98, 3, E Walder (US) 7.92; Group two: 1, J
Gerca (Sh) 8.71; 2 V Tretyak (Russ) 8.13, 3, I
Pedroso (Cubal 8.12; 4, G Canter
(Slovensa 8.04; 5, B Tutor (Rom) 7.95, 6, A
Glavatsko (Bels) 7.95; 7, J Becklord (Jam)

7 95, 8, S Vascleus (Gr) 7.92, 9, C Calado (Por) 7.25
WOMEN: 60m: Finel: 1, G Devers (US) 7.05ees; 2, C Storup (Bahr) 7.15, 3, F Bangue (Fr) 7.17, 4, C Aumer (Nigena) 7.95, 5, E Cyolou, (Nigena) 7.28, 8, 1 Presides (Fus) 7.80 Did not qualify. M Retrardson (GB), fourth in first semi-finel; End (Isl) 1, 24, 27, 2, C Noclau (Rom) 14.22; 3, Lasovaluye (Russ) 14.06, 4, T Marinova (Rus) 13.46, Group two: 1, R Matesou (Pom) 14.00, 2, S Respertova (C2) 14.37; 3, P Lobinger (Ge) 14.23, 4, Ren Rulping (Chine) 13.98, 5, N Laydova (Rus) 13.86; 6, O Housova (Islo) 13.80, 7, B Lise (Fr) 13.79 High jump: Group ore: 1, I Babatova (Uso) 15m., 2, A Astales (Ger) 193, 3, Y Lyshrova (Mol) 133, 4, O Botshova (Hol) 193, 5, K Bergoyest (Swe) 193; 6, M lagar (Rom) 1.90, 7, Z Kovachova (Lis) 13.51, M Dunkey (GB), K Jenúns (Us) 193, 5, K Bergoyest (Swe) 193; 6, M lagar (Rom) 1.90, 7, Z Kovachova (C2) 190, 8, Zharg Deven (Chre) 1.85; 9, S Cadusch (Swe) 1.85, 10, S Zalevstaya (Kaz) 185, 11, M Dunkey (GB), K Jenúns (US) and S Wistoveen (Arg) 180 Pentathion: 60m hurdles: Heat one: 1, R Nazarovene (Lift) 8.20sec; 2, M Sheigaut (Ger) 8.23, L Baster (Sem: Leone) 8.39 Heat two: 1, S Braun (Ges) 8.11, 2, K Carter 15.88, 2, S Braun 1.86, 3, Sheigauf 1.83 Shot 1, Carter 15.88, 2, S Braun 1.86, 3, Sheigauf 1.83 Shot 1, Carter 15.88, 2, S Braun 1.86, 3, Sheigauf 1.83 Shot 1, Carter 15.88, 2, Braun 1.84, 3, 3, U Wodarczyk 6.17, 5, Gordeyeva 6.10.

recorded lmin 43.96sec, a double blow to Kenya. It had Ereng, a Kenyan, lost his Kipketer was running for

cost Kipketer a place in the Atlanta Olympic Games last summer. The Danish authorities insisted on him waiting seven years before granting him citizenship. He had lived in Denmark for six years but there was no passport of convenience and he was denied the gold medal that would surely have been his.

In the first international championships since then. Kipketer made an impact on the opening day, but said he

looking troubled, for the semifinals today, putting behind had not gone to the start-line him the harrowing experience he suffered on this track three RESULTS FROM PARIS years ago. Having qualified for the European championships final, he crashed to the

> Admitting that he carried the memory of that moment with him on to the track, Baulch said: "I was thinking to myself. 'Here we go again, it is this track'." He need not have worried. He won his heat in 46.52sec, although he was not first to the bell, as has been customary this season.

floor in a tangle of legs approaching the bell, failing to

planning a world record. "My

group [heat] was not strong

and I had no pressure, so I

took a chance. It is good to

eliminate problems. I take one

problem at a time. I have only

one thing to think about now

the world record again. If you

think about two things, you

out for the first round of the

400 metres, the announcer

read out his name and lane

then, mistakenly, repeated it.

"I was laughing," Baulch said.
"I thought, What's going on?,

there are five other people in

Baulch, the overwhelming

favourite to win the final

tomorrow, qualified, without

When Jamie Baulch came

cannot get two right." &

— the gold medal, not to break

Over the next two days he will be left concerned at being first into the second lap because the finish-line, unlike most indoor tracks on which he has run, is at the end of the straight rather than close to the middle. "On this track, coming into the last bend, you can be third or fourth and still do a lot of damage."



The Baulch family arrives en masse today from Wales to lend support: mother, father, two aunts, two uncles, girlfriend and baby son. Baulch had said on Thursday that he saw the Americans as the threat and nothing occurred yesterday to change that view. Derek Mills and Deon Minor

look the danger men. Mark Hylton, Britain's second representative, won his heat but was fortunate that he was not eliminated. On the final bend, Hylton was blocked in and would have had no escape had Kevin

Widmer, from Switzerland. not strayed from the inside. leaving a gap. Hylton ran into it, and into first place, recording 47.58sec.

Baulch and Ashia Hansen were the only two British medal contenders competing yesterday and Hansen cruised through, qualifying as easily as Baulch had. Hansen managed 14.24 metres in the triple jump and now faces, in the final, four of the top seven

from the Atlanta Olympics. Given Britain's revered status as a sprinting nation, it was embarrassing that neither of the two men's 60metres runners reached the final. Jason Livingston, in his first championship since returning from a drugs ban, was eliminated in the first round and Jason Gardener went out in the semi-finals. The same applied in the women's 60 metres, no British athlete

reaching last night's final. Sally Gunnell, still making her way back slowly from a series of injuries, went out in the first round of the 400 metres but Phylis Smith progressed into the semi-finals as

# FOR SPORTANDING SERVICE World Cup crown passes to Wiberg

PERNILIA WIBERG, of Sweden, secured the women's World Cup overall skiing title yesterday by finishing third in a super giant-slalom at Mammoth Mountain. California, the race being won by her closest challenger, Katja Seizinger, of Germany. Wiberg's third place was worth 60 points and increased her season's total to 1,615 - 11 more than Seizinger, the 1996 overall winner, could accumulate even if she did manage to win all of the five races remaining on this season's schedule.

Wiberg failed, however, to wrap up the season's super-G title. Hilde Gerg, of Germany, ensured that battle would continue in the World Cup finals in Vail, Colorado, next week by taking second place yesterday. Gerg's time of Imin 17.67sec beat Wiberg's by a twentieth of a second and reduced the Swede's lead in the super-G standings to 39

# European charge

GOLF: Colin Montgomerie made a significant move towards his first professional victory on US soil with an impressive performance in the rain-delayed second round of the Doral Open in Miami yesterday. After kicking his heels in the locker-room for an hour. Montgomerie battled through a brisk breeze to reach five under par, within two strokes of the lead. Nick Faldo birdied the first two holes to get to four under while Jesper Parnevik moved into

Rank and

see strong

## Whitcombe's target

ATHLETICS: Andrea Whitcombe, the Great Britain international, is taking a break from training for the world cross country championships in Turin later this month to challenge for her third English title at Havant, Hampshire, today. Whitcombe, 25, who previously won the championship in 1990 and 1991, is hoping to take over from the absent Alison Wyeth, who is expecting a baby. There will also be a new men's champion, as last year's winner, John Nunall, of

# Ireland outclassed

HOCKEY: Ireland suffered a humiliating 9-1 defeat against Argentina in the men's World Cup qualifying tournament in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. They kept a clean sheet for the first quarter but lost their composure in a 16-minute spell in the second half during which their opponents rattled in six goals against one in reply from Nick Cooke, who scored from a penalty corner.

## House party

ROWING: Christ Church ended their downward spiral by rowing over on the third day of the Oxford University Torpids on the Isis yesterday. They held off Worcester in the men's first division. which produced only one bump — by Exeter, who caught St Edmund Hall approaching the Gut. Christ Church were, however, bumped out of the women's top division when they were caught by Lincoln.

# Shaw excels to take seventh title

**BOWLS** 

NORMA SHAW, of Thornaby, won the national indoor singles title for the seventh time - but the first since 1988 - when she defeated Jayne Roylance, of North Walsham, 21-9 in a disappointingly onesided final at York yesterday (David Rhys Jones writes).

It was a timely win for Shaw, a former world outdoor champion, who was disappointed recently to learn that she had been omitted from the national outdoor side for the Atlantic Rim championships in Llandrindod Wells in

August.
"Today's success meant as

much to me as the first six." Shaw. 59, said. "I'm still enjoying my bowls as much as I ever did — if I stopped enjoying it, I'd give it up."

After beating Linda Rose, of

Copeland, 21-14, Delia Searle, of Tilbury, 21-13, and Carol Ashby, of Eastbourne, 21-8, on the way to the final. Shaw found her touch from the start yesterday and, perhaps with that outdoor setback in mind, was at her most determined in the final, never allowing an out-of-touch Roylance to settle to line or length.

Both finalists won the right to compete in the women's

Plain Speaking Home Insurance \*\*\*\* ......

world indoor championships at Llanelli from April 18 to 20. against players from New Zealand, Hong Kong and Canada, as well as the other three home countries and the Channel Islands.

RESULTS: Singles: First round: O Searle (Tabury) bt S Rickman (King George Field) 21-13: N Shaw (Thomaby: bt L. Rose (Copeland) 21-14: C Ashby (Eastbourne) bt Copeland 21-14: C Ashby (Eastbourne) of J Searle (Dorchester) 21-14; K Stuff (Egham) bt E Logan (Marsheld, North London) 21-9; J Redlem (Rushden) bt J Baker (South Forest) 21-19; E Besset (Yeovil) bt 'Webb (Deangale Ridge) 21-18. K Hawes (Chewell) bt A Green (Isca, Exter) 21-11: J Roylance (North Walsham) bt A McPherson (Avon Valley) 21-8. Quarter-finals: Shaw bt Searle 21-13; Ashby in Sturt 21-19; Besset bt Redlem 21-7; Roylance bt Hawes 21-14 Semi-finals: Shaw bt Ashby 21-8; Roylance bt Bessell 21-8. Final: Shaw by Roylance. 21-9

Ken Hopkins, 63, a longserving member of the committee, has been appointed as replacement for Caffyn, whose seven-year reign was finally undermined by the criticism he attracted for blaming the departure of a number of leading players this winter on

> missed in October. Pigott has gathered enough support to force a special

Alan Wells, the county's for-

mer captain, who was dis-

BRYAN YOUNG scored an unbeaten 154, his best in Test cricket, to put New Zealand in a strong position after the first day of the first Test match against Sri Lanka in Dunedin

Young, the opening batsman, exacted a heavy toll on a disappointing Sri Lanka attack to register his second Test century as New Zealand reached 343 for four.

On a pitch tailor-made (or batsmen, Young, Matt Horne
- who made a fluent 66 - and Stephen Fleming, the captain, who scored an elegant 51, made Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, regret his decision to field. His bowlers. clearly short of match practice. struggled to maintain a consistent line on a pitch demand-

Young made his century in 272 minutes off 203 balls, hitting 16 boundaries, and added 140 with Horse for the second wicket in 146 minutes.

NEW ZEALAND; First Innings NEW CENANUE, min inergy.

8 A Young not out

9 A Poccot o Mahanama b Vazz

M J Home o Mahanama b Runutunga
\*S P Fleming c 20ysa

b Wickernasingho

Total (4 wids) 343 C 1 Coms, tA C Parore D N Poloi, H T Davis and S B Doubl to bat FALL OF WICKETS 1-55, 2-195 3-271 50% NG Vaas 21-5-81-2, Zoysa 23-4-62-0 Wichigmasinghe 15-3-71-1 Mura-Warse 23-6-600, Ranatunga 5-0-29-1 Jacober 3-0-50

SRI LANKA: "A Ransumpa, R S Mahan-ama, S T Jayasumya, M S Atapettu, P A de Stra, H P Tildkoatre, IR S Kalandhaman, M Muralithanan, W PU J C Vasc, G P Wickremosinghe, N Zoyca, Umpires C E King (New Zealand) and +T Robinson (Zimbobwe)

#### CRICKET

# Pigott's plan makes progress | Teddington must pass

By Our Sports Staff

TONY PIGOTT, the former committee. "I can confirm I Sussex bowler leading a camwould like to become chairman," Pigott said. "The future paign to oust the county's beleaguered committee, vesof Sussex is at stake and new terday welcomed the resignablood and new ideas are tion of Alan Caffyn, the urgently needed. chairman, as "a step in the

"I welcome Mr Caffyn's resignation, but what faces the members now is more of the same or a chance to take the club forward. I feel the whole committee's position is now untenable. There is no way back for them and by appointing Ken Hopkins as chairman they have played into my hands.

"I feel being a committee member for someone's own benefit is not enough. The Sussex committee has not been successful and I am

Yorkshire's 10,000 members will be balloted at the club's annual meeting in Leeds today on the controversial proposal to move from Headingley to a purpose-built £45 million stadium Durkar, near Wakefield. The plan earned the back-

ing yesterday of Dickie Bird, the celebrated umpire who played for Yorkshire in the 1950s. "Headingley is the home of legends and steeped in history and tradition, and I have some very happy memories of Headingley as a player and as a Test umpire: but if the new ground comes off, it is in an ideal position." he said. Brendon Julian, the Austra-

lia all-rounder, was yesterday

INDIA yesterday mounted resistance to West Indies' inexorable march towards an intimidating firstinnings total in the first Test, but the three wickets they gained in the morning session of the second day barely compensated for the damage done to their cause by Carl

Hooper. The often enigmatic allrounder progressed from his overnight score of 87 to complete his seventh Test century before spooning a catch to

Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, was forced to withdraw from the tour party's match against Border at the last moment yesterday with a back injury. Jason Gillespie took seven for 34 to bowl out Border for 117 and the Australians then reached 206 for five.

Venkatesh Prasad off the bowling of Abey Kuruvilla. His 129, which came off 212 balls, contained his 3,000 run in Test cricket and will have brought him happy memories of his international debut, ten years ago in Calcutta, which

he celebrated with a hundred. Anil Kumble, the leg-spinner, earned a leg-before decision against Junior Murray with the last ball of the session to leave the home side on 370 for seven. Roland Holder, making his first Test appearance, was unbeaten on three. Hooper and Ian Bishop.

whose 24 in nearly two hours

nightwatchman, put on 65 for the fifth wicket as West Indies scored at a reasonable rate on the slow pitch at Sabina Park,

Kingston, Jamaica. Hooper reached his hundred in the first hour by glancing Kumble, but the bowler was rewarded for his relentless toil when Bishop skied a drive to Sunii Joshi. who held a fine catch while running backwards.

Kuruvilla, the 6ft 5in fastmedium bowler who has impressed on his debut with his movement, subtle change of pace and control, kept probing away before he was able to add Hooper's scalp to that of Lara's, which he picked up late on the first day.

He might have had Holder in the penultimate over before the interval, but Mohammed Azharuddin failed to hold onto a catching chance and a confident appeal for leg-before was turned down by the umpire, Steve Bucknor.

WEST INDIES: First Innings Campbell c Mongla b Joshi . Wilkams b Kuruvita ...... R Murray low to Kumble . . . Extras (No 7, no 8) 

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-41, 2-86, 3-143, 4-290 5-357, 6-368, 7-370 BOWLING Pracad 28-5-104-1, Kuruwila 27-8-643, Kurubiki 33-95-2, Joshi 20-5-68-1, Gangulv 7-1-17-0; Lasman 3-0-14-0

MOIA: V V S Larman, N S Sidhu R S Drawd, "S R Terduller, M A Azharuddin, S C Ganguly, th R Monga, A R Kumblo, S Josh, A Kuruwila, B K V Prasad

HOCKEY

# stern test of character

the National League tomorrow is the premier division match between Cannock, the home side, and Teddington, who must win to keep their hopes alive for the final showdown on April 6 (Sydney Friskin writes). With the England team away in Pakistan, premier division matches will be suspended until that date except for a rearranged game between Old Loughtonians and Surbiton tomorrow week.

Teddington welcome back

Hayden and Wiles, who were training with the England junior squads last week.

Reading, who entertain Guildford, will build their game on the stability of Wyatt in deep defence, the midfield scheming of Hoskin and the sharpness of Pearn and Ashdown in attack.

Havant, already relegated despite a 5-3 victory over Hounslow, are hosts to Barford Tigers, who are battling to avoid a similar fate.

#### Renewing your giving members the opportugeneral meeting on April 8. confirmed as Surrey's overseas player for the second when a vote will be taken on a nity to make a positive motion of no confidence in the West Indies slowed Young's Test Home Insurance in best spurs by Indian resistance New Zealand

right direction".

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RUGBY UNION: BATH AND LEICESTER REST KEY PLAYERS

# Title-chasers keep talent in reserve

By David Hands, rugby correspondent

SOME distinguished and expensive posteriors will be warming replacement benches when the Courage Clubs Championship resumes this weekend. Federico Mendez, the Argentina hooker, will watch his colleagues at Bath do battle with London Irish today. Martin Johnson. of England, does likewise for Leicester against West Hartlepool, while Saracens keep two World Cup-winners, Michael Lynagh and Tony Daly, on the sidelines against Bristol at Enfield tomorrow.

It is no reflection on the individuals themselves, rather recognition of the workload placed on them already and, more significant, what is to come. Saracens, for example, expect to play nine games between March 30 and May 3 while Newcastle, in the

Hard day the same to the first line of the same to the

the office of

SHARES ,

second division, are preparing for 11 games in eight weeks as they make up their backlog of league fixtures.

The English game's winners and losers will have completed a desperare slog by the end of the season, complicated by yet more postpone-ments this month, caused by the World Cup sevens in Hong Kong. London Irish, with three players away and relegation from the first division looming, will be loath to play their game with Saracens on March 22, though that gives Paddy Johns the chance to recover from concussion suffered while playing in the Sara-cens second row last Tuesday.

The Irish, second from bottom, take on a Bath side that must win the championship to sustain a nine-year record of success in either league or

# Rank and file want to see strong leadership

IF THERE is one quality to emerge from tomorrow's special general meeting called by the Rugby Foot-ball Union (RFU) at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, the game at large would wish it to be strong leadership. Sadly, a possible outcome of the third such meeting within 14 months is stalemate, with neither the union nor its opponents receiving the necessary two-thirds majority for proposed constitutional

Quite rightly, the RFU is con-cerned to turn itself into as businesslike a structure as possible; democracy, a principle to which individuals turn far too glibly, may have popular appeal but does not necessarily make for day-to-day efficiency. Equally correctly to care the and file of the game expect to see the best individuals employed to make the revised structure work, but the debate has become bogged down in conflict between personalities, just as the long-running clash between the union and the leading clubs did.

The meeting tomorrow has to vote, not only on a series of technical constitutional changes, but on the appointment, powers and relationship of the new chief executive formerly the RFU secretary, the post held by Tony Hallett - and the chairman of the new 12-man management board that will succeed the present executive committee, chaired by Cliff Brittle. Whether both can survive in a healthy working relationship in future seems open to question.

The RFU recommends the chairman should be appointed by its own council (the general committee); amendments insist that the full membership should vote annually. Furthermore, a strong body of opinion believes that the post of chief executive should be advertised, which suggests a lack of confidence in Hallett.

"All the characters involved in the present debate have a finite shelf-life," David Hiles, secretary of Pinner and Grammarians, said. "I hope we are setting up principles for the future." ☐ Representatives of Heineken,

which has sponsored the European club competition for the past two years, meet European Rugby Cup Ltd (ERC) in Dublin on Wednesday to discuss the terms of ERC's television agreement with BSkyB which was confirmed yesterday. They will hope that the five-year deal, said to be worth more than £30 million, incorporates a terrestrial element, otherwise they may have to review their involvement with the

cup. They do so with Niall Hogan, the former treland scrum half and captain, making his debut against a side whose coaches include Clive Woodward, the former England centre, who worked with the Irish for three years.

"I'm expecting a very difficult game," Woodward said. Lower sides in the table who are scrapping for points can make life tough." Even so. Bath have beaten the trish in league and cup this season and, at the Recreation Ground, should complete the treble, though they will look forward to hearing of Simon Geo-ghegan's return. After a season of injury setbacks, the Ireland wing plays in the second-team game at

Wasps, the leaders, give their latest recruit, Kenny Logan, a debut at Loftus Road against Gloucester tomorrow in the knowledge that they have testing encounters to come away from home if they are to sustain their two-point lead over Leicester. Logan, who will win his thirtieth Scotland cap against France next weekend, has agreed a 27-month contract.

It was Gloucester who brought a live-match unbeaten run to an end when Wasps visited Kingsholm in October and started their own remarkable rise up the first division, in which they stand lifth. No one is more representative of their work ethic than Peter Glanville, the flanker, who plays his hundredth game to-morrow. "I hope the national selectors will soon start appreciating him the way we do," Richard Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, said. Wasps had hoped that Va aiga Tuigamala would extend his pre-

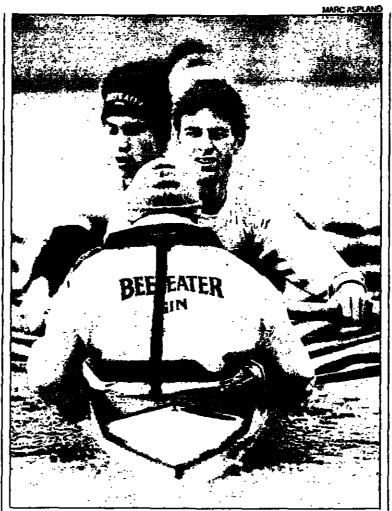
Christmas run with them but, refusing to be drawn into a price war, had to watch while Newcastle bought Tuigamala's contract from Wigan Rugby League Club. The first fruit of that sale will be seen today, when Tuigamala makes his debut against Wakefield alongside another returning union international, Alan Tait. Llanelli take on Swansea, leaders

of the Welsh League, without leuan Evans, whose place in the Wales team to play England next Saturday was made even more doubtful when a calf strain forced him out of national squad training on Thursday

night:

RELAND SEVENS SQUAD: R Wallace (Saracens).

D Hielde (St Mary's College), N Woods (London Irish), J Beil (Northampton), N Malone (Leicester), D Humphreye (London Irish), D McBride (Malone captain), E Miller (Leicester), K Dawroon (London Captain), K



The Cambridge University eight on dawn patrol on the River Cam at Ely yesterday as they step up their preparations for the University Boat Race on March 29. Cambridge have won for the past four years

GOLF

# James striving for place in Ryder Cup picture

MARK JAMES, a Ryder Cup regular for much of the past 20 years, spent £50 on a short Ping putter in Dubai last week and hopes it will help him to get back in contention for a place in the Europe team to meet the United States in the

He is 86th in the Ryder Cup table, with only 15,832 points, but his fiveunder-par 67 in the second round of the Moroccan Open in Agadir yesterday left him only one shot behind the leader, David A Russell. James, 43, has lost none of his competitive edge and, though last year was disappointing, he said: "I made my first cut of the season in Dubai last week and my whole game is much better than last year when, frankly, it was bad in all

Yesterday, having switched from his long-handled putter to his new short one, he holed a huge putt for an eagle three at the 10th hole and another from more than 20ft for a home in 31, five under par, and acknowledges that the first prize of £58,330 this week would be handy in his bid for an eighth Ryder Cup appearance.

James has more than ordinary hope. He won the Moroccan Open on these Royal Golf Links two years ago and is looking for history to repeat itself. But he will have strong opposition. Russell leads on 137, with José Coceres, of Argentina, and the Britons, Phillip Price, Jon Robson and Brian Davis level with James

In 20 years of trying, Russell has never won on the European Tour. He would have been further ahead but for dropping two strokes at the

☐ Lee Westwood had a level-par 72 in the second round of the Malaysian Open in Kuala Lumpur yesterday to retain a share of the lead with Larry Barber, of the United States. The pair are eight under par.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

**RUGBY LEAGUE** 

# Cougars ready to pounce on cup holders

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE new mood of expectancy at Keighley extends beyond the visit tomorrow of St Helens for a Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-final, now that the cloud of insolvency hanging over the first division club appears to be lifting. It is sign of the times that all 7.845 tickets for the match were quickly snapped up.

At a meeting this week. creditors were assured by the club's administrator, appointed last October, that a 11 million debt was close to being wiped out. In the Yorkshire town itself, recent despair has given way to buoyancy, as the Cougars put their problems behind them and prepare for the visit of the cup holders. Keyan Halliday-Brown, the

Keighley chief executive, said yesterday: There was deep pessimism in the town, especially with the moves by a couple of leading players, Nick Pinkney and Martin Wood, to Sheffield. The financial position was a worry for many people, but we are virtually over that and a great cup run and the St Helens match has put a spring back in the step of everyone."

Ironically, some of Keighley's problems can be traced back to the club record fee of £134,000 paid two years ago to Sheffield for Daryl Powell, now their player-coach. Three days later. Keighley found there was no place for them in the new Super League. Several sponsors withdrew and club officials reckoned the exclusion cost them in the region of £750,000.

Powell, the former Great

Britain stand-off half, stuck by the club and Keighley with him. He was handed the coaching role in succession to Phil Larder, now at Sheffield, whose contract was not renewed after last season. Powell and Simon Irving, the team manager, will both be on duty on the pitch tomorrow. Off the field, the pair have worked well, with a tight budget, in blending a combative, pacey unit that is unbeaten this

The one change to the Keighley side, which upset Halifax in the previous round. is the return on the wing of Jason Critchley, their leading try-scorer last season, who was forced home early from Great Britain's tour of New Zealand last October with a knee injury. Steve Prescon, the St Helens full back, has recovered from food poisoning, but the holders have a doubt about Derek McVey, who faces a late fitness check.

Saiford won a tight preseason contest at Warrington. but that is not a reliable guide to the televised all Super League tie at Wilderspool today. David and Paul Hulme, brothers-in-arms for most of their careers at Widnes, are in opposition for only the second time. If it is a case of age before beauty.

David, 33, might emerge victorious from Salford's veteran pack.

Steve Blakeley plays his first match since last September at stand-off for Salford after a second groin operation in 15 months. lestyn Harris, the Wales and Britain back, made his first appearance for Warrington since being placed on the transfer list at £1,35 million last July in the fifth-round defeat of Sheffield, and will be on the bench again.

Leeds, with Richie Blackmore, the New Zealand centre, fit for a first outing, appear to have the most straightforward passage into the semi-finals, playing first division opposition at home tomorrow. Featherstone Rovers were anything but promotion candidates in losing last weekend to Hull Kingston Rovers, but with half their side composed of former players at Headingley, incentive is hardly in short supply.

Oldham are expecting a 13,000 crowd at Boundary Park tomorrow, but have the look of sacrificial lambs about them against Bradford Bulls. the finalists last year. Their cause will not be helped by the absence of Matt Munro, the influential Australian forward, who has a broken hand.

# FOOTBALL. (24) Brighton v Leyton Orient (25) Chester v Barnet .........

Pools coupon numbers in brackets (-) Derby v Middlesbrough FA Carting Premierahip (1) Arsenal v Notlingham Forest (-) Coverity v Leicester (2) Leeds v Everton (3) Sunderland v Menchester Utd

-\_==

Southempton 27 8 7 14 37 46 25 West Hern . . 27 6 7 14 24 37 25 † Middlesbro 27 6 7 14 37 49 22 † Middlesbrough deducted three points

Nationwide League First division 

(5) Boron v Swaroor (6) Bracilord v Grimsby (7) Charlton v Crystal Pelace (8) Manchester City v Oldham (9) Norwich v Port Vala (10) Oxford Litd v West Bromwich (11) QPR v Huddersfield (13) Wolverhampton v Tranmere PW D L F A Pts Bolton - . . . 36 20 12 4 73 46 72 Wolves - . . . 35 18 8 9 49 33 62

 not including last night's match cond division 14) Burnley v Peterborough 15) Giftingham v Watford ....... 18) Luton v Millwall ...... 17) Notts County v Crawe ..... vn v Watiord ... .....

(24) Brigmon V Laylon Chern (25) Chester v Bernet (26) Doncaster v Hulf (27) Futhern v Scarborough (28) Hereford v Northamptor (29) Lincoln v Hartlepool (30) Mansfield v Cardiff Hereford v Northampton ... (30) Mensfield v Cardiff
(31) Rochdele v Wigan
(32) Scurtinorpe v Carlisle
(33) Swansea v Exeter
(34) Torquey v Darlington
P W D L F A Pts
Carlisle 35 21 9 5 56 31 72
Wigan. 35 20 7 8 65 43 67
Fulham. 35 19 8 8 59 35 65

† Brighton ..... 38 9 7 20 41 58 32 † Brighton deducted two points \* not including last night's match Vauxhelt Conterence

Tennents Scottish Cup Fifth round Bell's Scottish League Premier division

(---) Hibernian v Duntermine . First division (---) Partick v Airdrie Second division 

(44) Livingston v Sternhousemuit .... Third division (45) Alloa v Albion (45) Alloa v Abbon (46) Arboath v Forfer (47) Monitose v East Stirting (48) Quaen's Park v Inverness CT (49) Ross County v Cowdenbeath

(49) Ross County v Convoersean (49) Ross County v Convoersean division: Ashtord v Atherstone: Chellenham v Wordester City, Crawley v Carrotridge City, Glousester v Sudbury Tri, Crastley v Newport AFC, Halssower v Hastings: Nurry's Lynn v Dorcheater, Merityr v Burton Albon, Stringbourne v Chelmstond Middand division: Bilston v Tamworth, Conty v Eventers (Fartham v Sution Coldfield Town: Baston v Stourbridge, Paget R v Raunds T, RC Warwick v Moor Green: Shepshed D v Rottwell; Statland v Bedworth Southern division: Buckingfram Town v Trowbridge, Cholerford v Bastley; Clevadon v Dartland; Erith and Belveddra v Fartham; Fleet T v Hawart, Margelia v Waterhon-Kie, Newport Weston, Super-Marie, Weymouth v Witney. GLIBERT LEASUE OF WALES: Aborystwyth v Ton Pentire; Bengor City v Cremens Barry v Rottwell; Briton Ferry v Cernaes Bay, Carmerthen Town v Caersus; Conneh's Cuty v Inter Golde-Tet Conney v Ship v Perthradog: Welston of Vallenger (1940) Perthradog: Welston Chapter (20): Newfoon v First Town; Town (20): Perthradog: Welston Consen's Eleadurit, Covinthian-Casuals v Bedfant; Cova v Netherne: Cranleigh v Ash; Farrham v Netherne: Cranleigh v Ash; Farrham v Netherne: Cranleigh v Ash; Farrham v Westfield, Oup; Somi-finat; Feltham v Vking Sports DR MARTIENS LEAGUE: Premier division:

LEUL SAID VALUE LITERS.

Blyth Spartans v Cohwyn Bay, Frickley v Accrington Stanley, Gusseley v Wirsford, Hyde v Knowsley, Lancaster v Boston, Leek, Enriley, Marine v Gainsborough: Runcom v Chorley; Witton v Sperinymoor First division: Atherion LR v Witting Bey; Cuzon Astron v Lincoln United; Droyleden v Radolfite; Farsley Ceitor v Warrington; Fiston v Mallock Town Great Herwoord v Stockshodge PS; Gretna v Ashton United, Leigh v Bradford Ph. Ave. NetherReid v Esstwood Town, Workington v Harrogala: Town, Worksop v Congleton CSS, LFAGUIE; Pomories divisions Revenum

Netherfield v Esshwood Toun, Workington v Harrogale Town, Worksop v Congleton ICIS LEAGUE: Premier drvision: Borehem Wood v Duhwcht, Carshalton v Bromley: Enfield v Yeading; Harrow v Yeavit Hendon v Cherisey; Heybridge v Bishop's Stortlord, Hischin v Garcy; Vingstorian v Degeman and Redbridge; Purfeet v Sutton Unsted; St Albans v Oxford City; Stains v Aylasbury First diffusion: Abungdon Town v Barton Rovers; Aldershot Town v Walton and Hershem, Besingstoke v Worthing, Berthamsted v Merkow, Bognor Regis v Worthing; Berthamsted v Merkow, Bognor Regis v Worthing; Berthamsted United, Leyton Pennent v Bilderlaw; Tooting and Mitcham v Molesey-Loondge v Chesham; Wokingfiam v Hampon. Second diffusion Berniead v Borking Becthord T v Brackmelt; Coller Row and Romford v H Hampstead, Horsham v Hungerford, Leetherhead v Cheshuni, Leichton Town v Edgwate. Metropolitan Potice v Weenthey. Tibury v Scham, Wernoley v Dorlong, Windoor and Elon v Chalton St Peter, Witham v Ware Third division Berlintee v Epsom and Ewel; Camberley v Harlow, East Thurrock, v Aweley, Fiackwell Heatin v Horschard. Hertford v Wingste and Findriey, Northwood v Kingsbury, Tifrig v Clapton, Weeldston et Lowes

TOMORROW

DH HAMI DAS LEVELLE - TENTER OVISION BAIDOR V DOTCHESTE (2 0)

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier division: Home Farm v Dundle (3 15). Cup Ouerte-Shale: Bray v Shebourne (3 15): Dany v Cork (3 0) WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MATCH

CIS UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMP-IONSHIP: Semi-final: Doiset and Witshire y Surrey (at Bournemouth, 2 15)

Kirk-off 3 D unless stated Silk Cut Challenge Cup First division Hull KR v Wakefletd Second division

> HOCKEY NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cannock v Teddington (at Mores Ground 2:30); Canterbury v Hounslow (at Polu Farm, 1.0); East Grinslead v 0:40 Parin, Imp.
> Loughtonians (al Seint Hill, 20) Havan v
> Barlord Tigers (al Havant College, 215)
> Reading v Guildton (al Sorring Lane, 20)
> Southgata v Surbiton (at Broomled's Sociol
> Southgata v Surbiton (at Broomled's Sociol
> Southgata v Surbiton (at Broomled's Chool Southgale v Surbiton (et a 2 30). First division: Bo

Eton Menor v Burnham Remblers, Great Walkering v Seltron Walden Hulbridge-Sports v Earl Ham Mord v Concord Rangers, Savbridgeworth v Ford United MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division\* Artesey v London Colney, Hoddesdon v Bushingtom Antene, Langlord v Royston, Lackmorth v Welvyn Garden, Miton keynes v Bedford, Porters Bar v Brache Spatta, Toddington v Buggeswald: SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE\* Premier division. Biofeloid v Bright Manor Farm, Bindgestev v Tomington, Bridgot v Etimoro Bachwell v Bernstagle Bristington v Calme Westbury v Tausion JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE. JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE

PEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE.
Premier division: Diss v Tippre Falkenham v
Claston, Feursione P and 1 v Bury Town.
Gorteston v Suction, Res Halstead v
Wisbech, Hammeh and Pratheston v Soham
March v Wisberh, Hammeh and Pratheston v Soham
March v Wisbern, Mewmantel v Haddegh U,
Stowmanter v Watton Wasbeys v Creat
Termouth, Woodbridge Town v Sudbury
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE First shareson
Lymington v Peterslad, Andoner v Inhachiam
Town, BAT v East Cower, Bouletton Heuth v
Ryde Sports Bournenoith v Bioschenhus in
Christichuch v Whitchurch Romsey v
Aerostructhures Wimborne Town v Downton
UNIVET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First
division Eastbourne Town v Arundel Hascods v Southwest Languey Sports
Vincham VMCB Mile Cola v Haltham
Testington v Popman Pezcelusen and
Telescombe v Popman Pezcelusen and
Telescombe v Potterin Haymer v Wick
Selsey v Safddan Shoteham v Tirce
Bridges, Whitchaut v Burgers, Hill
PRESS B JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE
Clachmacustin v Devisionnate, Fort William v
Cose, Erserten on v Hoult, Huntil v Elant Nam County Rothes v From
ARTHURIAN LEAGUE Arthur Dunn Cop

FOOTBALL denotes all-ticket match \* Chesterfield v Wrexham (11 30) \* Portsmouth v Chelsea (1 30) Sheffield Wed v Wimbledon (4 10) DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division

RUGBY UNION Courage Clubs Championship First division Sale v Northampton (3 0) Wasps v Gloucester (at Lottus Road, 3.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE \* Keighley v St Helens Leeds v Featherstone ...... Oldham v Bradford Swinton v Huddersheld Widnes v Workington . ...

Barrow v Hurstel Batley v Prescot (3 15) Doncaster v Certisle (2 0) Lanceshire Lynx v Bramley York v Rochdale

2.30) Bromley's Brusharts (a Prior, Cortician Control 10) Brocklands is Brocken for George's Road, Sale 2.0), City or Portsmouth indian Gymharte (at Alexandra Park Portsmouth 1.30) Concher vi localitationgues, 1.0) Donnarder vi Lewes lat Bremeithespe 2.0) Entateuton vi lot het Bremeithespe 1.0) Entateuton vi lot het Bremeithespe 1.0) George (and Bremeithespe 1.0)

Figure 1 No.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES Men England v Nothington (10) Women England v Nothington (10) Women England v Nothington (10) (both at Mittan Reyne).

WOMEN'S WELSH CUP Quarter-finals, Brighey v Cauth Affair Conwr. Bri v Salanca in Nothing v Cauth Institute From the Victimal Property of Land Institute From the Victimal Property o WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP Michards (at Aldersky Wolverhampton 10.0) Northamptonshine Warwick-hise Stationshine & Locester hise 17 october Stattonthine of the content are 17 of Cler-chine v Worwinkstein (Indipshire v Morth-ampounds). North oil Preson, 9 30, Mancheste v Dathorn Chichtie v LCL Northimherland v Mais hester Leadur Cheshne v Dathorn Christian v rook the Lindachine v Hombersate South (all Carlethney, 9 30). Santry v Ford Benschire Mothice of Second Chaladohie Santry Mothice South (Subadohie Santry Mothice of Second Chaladohie Santry emining of Sizzani, Outlandship Nancy a Benedisin Mindfelman a Sussain Hert is Oktion ren: West of Bosonicouth, 10 No or awall in Interdigate Place Supported in Managarithm Flavoria Flavoria Glougeste.

OTHER SPORT BASIKETBALL Budwesser League: London's Leopards (6.00) Thames Maley Fernstein (6.00) Chester's Homel and Warbord Broth National League Men. First division Broth of Select (4.00) Leopards War (3.00) Chester's Med Select (4.00) Leopards War (3.00) Chester's Med Select (4.00) Select (4.00) Women Selected division Southpile (4.00) Women Selected Chester's Med Select (4.00) S

ICE HOCKEY Superleague play-offs. Group A Ayry Cardiff to 46 Monocector . Newsparts in or Group B. Bracked . Shelleck (614) Strenger (1979)
VOLLEYBALL Nebonel Loague Women
First division Rechalt Loague Vomen
Mandreste United (Julius (1), 45) F. co.
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ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE Premier division Basidon U v Bowers, Brentwood v Stansted Eton Manor v Burnham Ramblers, Gisal Walkering v Satton Walden Hulbridge Sports v East Ham Illord v Corcord Rangers, Sawbridgeworth v Ford Unried MiNERWA SOUTH MIDNANDS LEAGUE Premier division: Artesey v London Cohey, Hoddesdon v Buchingham Arthers, Langlord v Royston, Latchworth v Weltyn Garden, Millon Keynes v Bedford, Poters Bar v Brayte Sparia, Toddington v Bagteswake SCREWERX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier v Lambourn Sports Cup: Semilinal, second leg; Fributy (3) v Littley (1) amunne v Lambourn spons Cup: seminal, second leg; Finibusy (3) v Tuffey (1)
UHLISPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE:
Premier drivison: Boune v Ford Spots.
Desbough v Wootton Hobbaach v Eyresbury, Long Buckby v Stantiord, Newport
Pagnel v Cogenhoe Northampton Spenaer
v Boston, Potton v Wellingborough: Spaking
v Stoffold

v Boston, Porton v weeingsocough: Spaniel v Storfold INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell v Will, Inhall Bloomen Lown v Krypersley V Buldmere S M v Budgnorth Chisestown v Buldmerhall Halesowen H v Hindeley Amellic. Licibury Li v Petsall V, Rushall O v W Midd Cichory U v Petcall V, Rushall C v W Mid Police Shrinal I v Rocester Stapernill v Pershore T, Strathord T v Sandwell ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION-Premiter division. Bolehall S v benilworth: Covertry Sphins v Studiey Bikl. Haistrahan Timbers v Highgate, Nings Health v Alve-chuich Hnowle v West Midland Fire Service, Massey Ferguson v Codshill Shrifey v Richnicha Swiths Southam v Blaton Com-inunty College. Worcesters v Welfelbourne BANNS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premiter division, Bloswich S v Hill Top R Bnerley Hill T v Ludiow T Dataston v Wolverhampton C Etningstaal H v Lie Town, Gomal Res v Wolverhampton United, Stourport S v Cradley Town Tindale v Walsall Wood, Wcstfields v Skildrod T Gradey Town Tradase v Walsali Wood, Westhelas v Stationt T NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Finat division Boote v Chisace Chadderon in Rossendalis, Glossop North End v Derwert. Hollier Old Brys v Eastwood H, Nasgove Atherion Collenia's Mossley v Burscough, Presco (Cables v Mane Road Sattord v Sithelas v Australia (M) v Black-poot Rivers Cup Semi-finals, first leg, Nantwich Town v Tufflord Newcastle Town - Fernith NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE. Introdo Newseste Iolen - Pertini
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUEPremier durison. Amiliope Welfare v
Ponteffard Cols Ashield v Belgar Town:
Brigg Town - Selby Glasshoughton Welfare
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v Cosett Atbon Maility MW v North Femby
Oscett Teon v Husbrield Main Liversedge
v Shetteld Thackley v Amold
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN
LEAGUE First division Chester-Ie-Street v
Shetten Courself v Bedington Temes, Duriton Federation v Whetham Duriam v Morpeth Munton v RTM Newsaste Seeham Red
Star v Bellingham South Shetde v Essington,
Low Law v Greeker LeAGUE Premier division
Auds v Collevaire Chifonotte v
de of war. Glenaron v Chestaris: Limbeld v
Frankdown First division Ballymena v
Rungun Camot v Deptilery Lams, v Newy
Consell v Bellingtone

Professional First United in Page 19 P SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE First division Cookin End Vumpries v Chill Servic, Natificat Bank v East Bainel Od, Not which is a Wild Widtham. Old Estimation of Carlotholm Od Parindenanc v Southern Phytoching v Old Adonams Southern Olympian League, Senar one Allaman v Southern Odd Min v Ulysies Noticorough Old Frichladis Parilled v Wildin Wandsworth Not St Many's Coll Reals St Mary & Coll.

RUGBY LEAGUE Silk Cut Challenge Cup Quarter-finals Warrington v Salford (3.9)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE Pre-met dynason Mayheld v Shadkwarth (2 30) First division (Blockrise) - Batton Istan (2 30) (1 cg/f Sch V vulnic) (2 30) Moldigreen y Wahey Central (2 30) Second division Ecules y Redhill (2 30) Hull Dockers v New Enstance (2 3) Eccles & Nedhal (\* 30) Hur Houses view Cassach (\* 30) BNFL CUIP Fourth round Askam viEssa Lock: Beckney & Surtagun BRh viFarmanin Clavion view at Apri Doulley Hall viWest Hall flust that viFer: Etembricough Riv Halls Hillensingham visitable Lock Lane vi Show Tines Millord vi Wigari Si Jude's, No conton's Desibury Millorens vi Wahrd Williamail vi Wistan Si Panick's West Hawking vi Waterward Wigari Si Cultibert's vi Oversion Wigan Teatri vi Montation Riving vivial Coversion Wigan Teatri vi Montation Riving Vision Coversion Commission (\* 30) Coversion Courage Clubs Chi First division Bath v London Irish (3.0) ...

Leicester v West Hartlepool (3 0) Orrell v Harlequins (3.0) Second division Redford v Waterion (3 (ti 

Third division Clifton v Rosslyn Park (3 0) . .... Fylide v Rasading (3.0)
Havarri v Otley (3.0)
Lordon Welsh v Leads (3.0)
Lydney v Harrogate (3.0)
Morley v Wharriedate (3.0)
Walsal v Liverpool St Helens (3.0)
Walsal v Liverpool St Helens (3.0)

Walsali v Liverpool St Helens (3.0)
FOURTH DWISION NORTH: Kendal v Lichfield (3 0): Memchaser v Sandal (3 0). Nivesalon v Horeford (3 0): Shefileld v Aspatra (3 0): Stole-on-Trent v Winnington Park (3 0); 
Stourbridge v Birmingham/Solthuli (3 0): 
Wordester v Preston Grasschoppers (3 0). 
FOURTH DWISION SOUTH: Aslasans v North Walsham (3 0), Berry Hill v Metropoltan Police (3 0), Cambarity v Tabard (3.0), 
Cheriton Park v Barlung (3 0), High Wycombe v Heritey (3 0). Newton v Weston-superMare (3 0), Plymouth v Cheltenham (3 0) 
SOUTH WEST: First division: Brohem v St 
hers. Gloucester Old Boys v Maderhead, 
Launceston v Barnstaple, Meteon v Camborne, Salesbury v Bridgwaler. Torquary v 
Strough Strong Charles (3 0). 
Service of Memory Performs. Buffer (4 of Memory v Bridger).

borne. Salebury v Bridgiwaler. Totquay v Stroud MDLANDS: First division: Barkers Butts v Syston. Belgrave v Stockwood Paric Broadstree! v Stalloot: Barton v Scunthorpe; Comp Hill v Mansfield. Darby v Leaghton Buzzard. Hinchley v Leamington Weverhampton v Westleigh NOFTH: First division. Bractical and Bingley v Bridgington; Hull Iomans v Stockfon: Sedgley Pari v New Brighton: West Park Bramhope v Macclesfield; Widnes v Broughton Park. CIS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-linets Comercial v Cumbra (at Bridgiwaler. 30).

Weish League First division Caerphiliy v Treorchy Cardiff v Newbridge Neath v Bridgend Newporf v Ebbw Vale

Pontypndd v Durivant Swansea v Lianelli Second division THIPD DIVISION: Builth Wells v Pyle, Mountain Ash v Merthyr, Penanth v Narberth Runnoy v Tentry United; Tredagas v Llanharan, Tondu v Kentig Hall Tennents Premiership First division 

Gissgow Acads v viest o scotland (3.0) THIRD DINSION: birkcaldy v Glasgow Southern (3.0), Stewart's Metville FP v Kilmarnock (3.0) FOURTH DIVISION: Hillhead/Jordanhill v Gordonians (3.0) Insurance Corporation League First division

Cork Constitution v Old Wesley. Lansdowne v Ballymena...... Old Crescent v Terenuré Coll........ Shannon v Old Belvedere St Mary's College v Garryowen Second division Skemes v Monkstown Sunday's Well v DLSP .... ... UCC v Malone.....

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Scotland Under-

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Ashtord v Spencer: Beckenham v Fareiterr; Bouremouth v Archarters. Hempstead/Westremeter v Gore Court: High Wycombe v Chichester, Remgarite v Wokinghestr, Richarond v Meldenhead; Tunbridge Weils v Old Whitightians: Winbledon v Woking Hempstweis Surrey: Andover v Chearn, Besningstolle v Goart; Southarmaton v Dutwich: Beandland v Ordard; Puriev v Barnes; Petersfield v Old Cranleighans, London University v Epsom. Old Med-Whitightians v Old Walcournens: Orshort v Porismouth, Kerni-Sussec; Eastbourne v Worling, Horsham v Ashtord, Marden Russels: v Bedweiers; Medieleon v Bognor, Mid Sussex v Brightan, Old Bordenans v Herm Bay, Old Holcombeans v Bedey Invota, Old Wifernsonians v Beselv Invota, Old Wifernsonians v Brachett, Loron v Stanes, Mariow v Harrow, Mill Hill v Headington; Milton Keynes v Arnenham; OMT v Sunbury, PHC Chesenck v Revoluny, West Hampsteed v Chy ol Odord NORTHERN LEAGUE; Finst division; Ben Rhydding v Remgarha, Formby v Notion, Neston v Harrogale, Shelfield Bankers v Choster, Springhelds v Southport; Sawakell V Tropeley. NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Ashlord v Spancer: Beckenham v

Timpetay.
DTZ DESENHAM THORPS MIDLAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Blowech v
Blossomfield, Khalsa v Covertry and North
Warwicshire. Loughborough Students v
Hampton-Arden, North Nottinghamshire v
Harboune, Notingham v Otion and West
Marmorkethy

Harbourne, Nobrighern v Otton and West Warwickehrer ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division At Bashop's Storiford v Redshridge and lifted, Cambridge City v Chemistord, Cambridge University v Dereham; Peterborough Town v Ipewich, Sudbury v Colchester Pramier division B: Bury St Edmands v Bedford Town, Chector v Ipeswich, and East Sutfolk, Huntingdon v Old Southendien; Norwich Cey v Luton Town, Pombord v Westchill WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Bean v Redland: Cambridge City v Pererborough, Cambridge City v Pererborough, Cambridge V V Test Mill, Hampdead v Wolang; Hendon v Brackmet; Old Loughtonians v Chettonham, Reading v Hampton; Redbridge v Bury St Edmunds; St Albans v Blueharts, West Writney v Wirtheledon.

Penarth v Cardill Inst. Swansea v Newforn. WOMEN'S COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP. North Ital Prescot, 1030; Cheshire v Cumbrie; Lancashire v Yorkshire. Northumberside v Cheshire. LCI. v Humberside v Cumbrie, Yorkshire v LCI. Wast Ida Bournernuth, 1030). Gloucesterste v Herstordshire Devon v Someriet; Comwall v Dossit. Penon v Gloucestershire. Dosset v Somerset; Comwall v Herstordshire.

OTHER SPORT

OTHER SPORT
ATHLETICS: English cross country championships (at Havers)
BASIXETBALL: Budwelser League: Crystal Palace v Chester (7 30), Marchester v Wortsing (7 30), Birmingham v Sheffleid (7.30); Henel and Westord v Derby (7 30) National Leegue: Meri: First division: Canditi v Westminster (8 0); Mid Sussex v Coventry (7 30); Notisingham v Guiddord (8 0), Cadord v Bury and Botton (8 0); Plymouth v Sicokton (7 30) Second division: Asion v South Wales (7 30), First-Nire v Seindon (7 30); Northampton v Bournamouth (6,0), Sheffleid v Themes Valley (6 0); Slough v South Bank (8 0) Womer, First division: position v Crystal Palace (7 30). London v Rhondaa (6 0); Rombern Christ division: position v Crystal Palace (7 30); London v Rhondaa (6 0); Rombern Christ division: (8 0); Northampton v Harlesstein (8 0); Northampton v (8 0) Women: First division: (pseuch v Crystal Pelane (7 30): London v Rhondida (6 0); Northampson v Harlesden (8 0); Nothingham v Thames Vettey (6 0), Sheffield v Barlung and Dagenham (4 0); Sheffield v Birmingham (6 0) Second division: Playdisc Guarter-finals: Levoster v Solori (4 0); Liverpool v Cheimstond (1 0); Manchester v Plymouth (4 0)
BOMM.S. Yetton Trophy (at New Earswick)
BOMM.S. Yetton Tophy (at New Earswick)
BOMM.S. World Boxing Organisation intercontinental championship (vegani). Steve

BOXING: World Bosung Organisation inter-continental championahip (vacani) Steve Rocurson (Wales) v Tomas Sartos Serrand (Meo) (at Brentiord) ICE HOCREY: Superleague play-offs: Group A: Newcastie v Ayr (6.30) Group B: Notingham v Shoffleld (6.0): Beatingsloke v Bracknell (6.30) LACROSSE: Shephends Friendly Society Lagguez Premier division: Cheadle v Poynton; Cheadle Hulme v Timperley, Mettor v Hulmetans. Moorthorpe v Suckpon; Old Waconians v Heaton Mersey. ROWING: Women's Head of the River Interwey.

AWARDS 1997 We name Britain's best new cars New Audi A6 Full details

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# THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP AND FA CUP THIS WEEKEND

#### ARSENAL

Dennis Bergkamp should be able to lead Arsenal through a plainly petrified Forest. The brilliant 17-year-old French prodigy, Nicolas Anelka, could make an early debut in attack, if Paul Merson is unfit. Fed-up with being left out of Paris Saint-Germain's first team, Anelka was delighted to have been brought to Highbury by his compatriot, Arsene Wenger. John Lukic, clearly finding form and confidence, continues in goal in the absence of David Seaman.

### **DERBY COUNTY** Derby enter their FA Cup quarter-final against Middles-

brough this afternoon having conceded to goals in their past five fixtures, six of them to Middlesbrough in the Premiership on Wednesday. Jim Smith, the manager, is expected to recall Paul McGrath today, while the return to fitness of Chris Powell allows Gary Rowett to move to the back three from left wingback, where he has been tentative. Dean Sturridge, suspended. the leading scorer, is RH

#### **ASTON VILLA**

Brian Little, the manager, is extending his scouting network to Australia — birthplace of Mark Bosnich, the Villa goalkeeper, and original home of sundry other "Socceroos" now plying their trade in Europe. Little has linked up with Roy McLaren, the former Villa assistant manager, who runs a highly successful football academy Down Under. "Anything that can produce talent for us has to be considered," Little said. "It would be foolhardy to ignore what is available over a wider field." RK

#### **EVERTON**

After throwing away a lead at Southampton in midweek, Everton's need for greater defensive security was revealed in a £4.25 million bid for Slaven Bilic, of West Ham. "I've admired him since he came to this country," Joe Royle, the manager, said. In the meantime, Paul Gerrard's groin injury means that they go to Leeds today with the same defence, Neville Southall continuing in goal. Paul Rideout looks likely to stay, his move to Japan now officially "on the back-burner".

#### **BLACKBURN ROVERS**

Blackburn are idle in the Premiership because of Middlesbrough's commitments in the FA Cup at Derby. The

future, however, is brightening all the time. Tony Parkes, the caretaker-manager. has added youngster Damien Duff to the first-team roster and believes Roy Hodgson will inherit an exciting young squad. "We've got several teenagers on the verge of the first team, and our hard work with the youth policy will soon be paying dividends," he said.

DM

#### LEEDS UNITED

Carlton Palmer may return to the defence this week, and David Wetherall keeps his place in the Leeds line-up. Kelly completes a two-match suspension, and Radebe starts one. Lee Bowyer, who was replaced at half-time by Palmer last Saturday, is fit to return in midfield. The Yeboah saga rolls on, with the forward's agent meeting the Leeds chairman last week. "You'll have to ask the chairman what it was about. I don't know," George Graham, the manager, said.

#### CHELSEA

Eddie Newton has had a knee operation and his energy is clearly missed in midfield. Rund Gullit's fractured ankle will probably keep him out until the end of the season. Reassuring for Chelsea is the impressive form of Grodas in goal, but their defence looks strangely suspect when high balls come into the box. Against first division defenders, Gianfranco Zola might find more space but Gianluca Vialli has been making disappointingly little differ-ence when coming on as substitute. BG

#### LEICESTER CITY

Steve Claridge seems an unlikely subject for an autobiog-raphy but his story is published later this month and it is a footballing tale with a difference. Nothing has been simple. He overcame a heart problem to appear for a succession of non-league and lower-division clubs, working part-time as a gardener and greengrocer. He rowed with managers, gambled heavily and is now involved in a door-to-door egg delivery service. Despite a shoulder problem, he plays against Coventry today. RH

### COVENTRY CITY

Gordon Strachan, the manager, reckons he will have snapped up an £800,000 bargain in the shape of Aleksandr Evtushok, once the former Dnepr central defender has adjusted to the rigours of life in the Premiership. Perhaps Strachan, still fighting to save the club from relegation, should have investigated the Ukrainian's background a bit more closely. Evtushok. 27, has spent the past two years studying for a degree at the University of Kiev. His course? Football management.

#### LIVERPOOL

Stan Collymore went Awol last Tuesday, the third time he has missed training without ringing in an excuse. Even Roy Evans is fast approaching the limits of a tether that was seemingly endless and more dramatic action could follow. The manager is impressed with SK Brann's Tore Andre Flo and, should Liverpool beat the Norwegians in the Cup Winners' Cup, he could arrive at Anfield to herald Collymore's hasty cut-priced departure before the trans-fer deadline at the end of the month. DM

#### MANCHESTER UNITED

🖒 Gary Pallister is United's only serious injury doubt, with a groin strain, but Alex Ferguson, the manager, will wait until this morning to decide whether any of the other players need a rest after the emotional high of Wednesday night at Old Trafford. "I might decide to freshen it up with one or two changes," he said. Keane is suspended. If Pallister is not fit, either Johnsen will drop back, or Gary Neville will move into central defence with his brother. Philip, coming in.

#### MIDDLESBROUGH

Mikkel Beck has admitted that he and Fabrizio Ravanelli have not always been on the same wavelength. I didn't like the way he kept gesticulating at me," the Danish forward said. "It has been difficult but now he understands enough English for me to tell him what I don't like about him." Bryan Robson's men are, however, missing the injured Emerson, Festa, Kinder, Vickers and Pearson, and the manager knows that Internazionale and AS Roma are pursuing Ravanelli.

#### **NEWCASTLE UNITED**

With all the excitement of European competition and the FA Cup this weekend, Kenny Dalglish's return to Anfield on Monday has been somewhat overlooked. True, he has been back there before, but never as manager of Newcastle. One thing is certain: Dalglish's natural caution will ensure there is no repeat of last season's epic 4-3 result, which denied Kevin Keegan the title and ultimately led to his departure. Dalglish will surely not allow similar fare to be served up.

### NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Supporters expecting the new owners to make quick signings to try to ease the relegation difficulties have been disap-pointed. The team that faces Arsenal this afternoon will be chosen from the same squad as three months ago, when Forest beat today's opponents in Stuart Pearce's first game in charge. "We need a striker, a midfield player and a defender but I have to keep my nerve." Dave Bassett, the general manager, said. At least the £16 million is earning interest.

# SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY What is it about Wednesday? One defeat in 22 games, and yet

(9)

still no one is taking them seriously. Take the FA Cup. Wimbledon, even Derby have their passionate backers for the trophy, but not Wednesday. They have managed to sneak into the quarter-finals with barely a murmur, but a home draw, even against Wimbledon, suggests that the 6-1 you could still get last week is a sound bet. With David Pleat, the manager, concocting a mixture of style and bile, Wimbledon are wary. DM

#### SUNDERLAND

Goals are as rare as smiles on Wearside these days and in the wake of the 4-0 defeat by Tottenham on Tuesday - their worst home reverse in 16 years -

Manchester United are unwelcome guests at Roker Park today. Paul Stewart, a boyhood United fan, has announced his return to fitness and should be at least a substitute. With the transfer deadline just two weeks away, the Roker Park faithful are concerned that no relegation-averting signings are in the offing.

#### **HOW THEY STAND**

		Goal	Last five
P.	- Pts	diff	lge games
1 Manchester United 28	57	+25	WWWDW
2 Liverpool	53	+25	
3 Arsenal	51	+21	
4 Newcastle 27	48	+20	DWWWL
5 Aston Villa 29	46	+8	WWDWL
6 Sheffield Wednesday 28	45	+4	DDWWW
7 Wimbledon 27	- 44	<del></del>	· · · DWDLD
8 Chelsea 27	43	+4	CLICHAN
9 Leicester 27	36	-5	DLWWW
5 Leeds28	36	-8	DDLWW
1 Tottenham28	35	-4	LDLLW
2 Everton		-6	LWOLD
3 Flackben 27	32	+2.	LWDWD
4 Derby:::::::::::::29	- 32		
5-Coventry	29	-13	
6 Sunderland 28	29	-15	
7 Nottingham Forest 28	27	-19	
R Southamoton 27	25	<u>.g</u> .	LLDWD .
8 Southampton	25	-13	
0 Middlesbrough 27	22	-11	WDLLW
† Middlesbrough dedu		throe o	omte
1 Mancheson onfis reserve	الجون	nuec h	ruinė

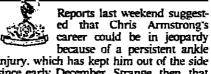
#### SOUTHAMPTON

sheets, the Southampton defence was back to its bad old ways in the first half against Everton at The Dell on Wednesday. Graeme Souness, the manager, credited half-time substitute Michael Evans, the forward signed from Plymouth Argyle early this week, with inspiring the fightback that rescued a point. Frustrating, then, to be without a game today. The club match at Bournemouth last night at least gave Evans

After two successive clean

#### ? TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

another chance to learn the system.



injury, which has kept him out of the side since early December. Strange, then, that Armstrong is back training with the first team and taking part in knockabout games at the club's Chigwell training ground. It is likely, too, that he will play in part of a reserves match next week. "He's progressing quite nicely," Tony Lenaghan, the Tottenham physiotherapist, said.

#### **WEST HAM UNITED** West Ham. who entertain

Chelsea on Wednesday, will then be faced with four successive away games if, as is likely, Middlesbrough reach the Coca-Cola Cup

final. It is, Harry Redknapp says, the crux of the season, but will the manager have Slaven Bilic to help him through it? Everton have confirmed their interest - a £5 million bid seems imminent - but Redknapp is adamant. "We don't want to sell. it's as simple as that," he said yesterday, "and he must show some lovalty to us."

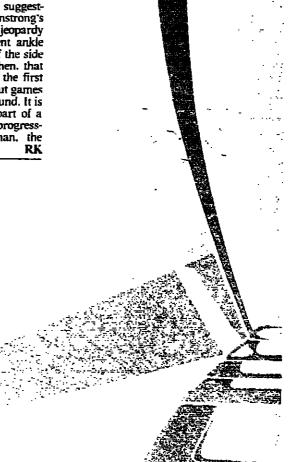
Not a bad week for Wimble-

we had half the team only half-fit."

WIMBLEDON

don. Robbie Earle has been voted Carling player of the month for February, the first Wimbledon player to receive the honour. Leonhardsen is doubtful, but Sullivan, the goalkeeper, and Jones are expected to be fit for the FA Cup game at Hillsborough tomorrow. Paul Heald, Sullivan's understudy, impressed in the draw at Coventry, which was described by Joe Kinnear, the manager, as "a terrific result considering

Reports: Brian Glamville, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Richard Hobson, Nick Szczepanik, Keith Pike, David Maddock, Statistics: Julian Desborough



#### **ARSENAL v NOTTINGHAM FOREST**

10-YEAR RECORD: 0-0, 0-2, 1-3, 3-0, 1-1, 3-3, 1-1, --, 1-0, 1-1

### HOW THEY LINE UP

ARSENAL (from): J Lukic, L Dixon, N Winterburn, A Adams, P Vieira, S Hughes, D Bergkamp, M Keown, S Marshall, D Platt. P Merson, S Morrow, L Harper, P Shaw, I Selley, M Rose, N Anelka.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (trom): M Crossley, D Lyttle, S Pearce, C Cooper, S Chettle, N Jerkan, A1 Haaland, S Gemmill, I Woan, D Saunders, N Clough, B Roy, S Howe, S Blatherwick, C Armstrong, P McGregor, S Guinan, D Phillips, A Fettis.

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#### COVENTRY CITY V LEICESTER CITY

TICKETS: Seats available 10-YEAR RECCRD; 1-0, --, --, --, --, --, 4-2, --.

HOW THEY LINE UP COVENTRY CITY (from): S Ogrzovic, R Shaw, G Breen, D Dublin, P Williams, P Telfer, K Richardson, G McAllister, E Jess, N Whelan, D Huckerby, P Ndlovu, B Borrows, A Evtushok, M Hail, G Strachan.

LEICESTER CITY (from): K Keller, S Grayson, S Prior, S Guppy, J Lawrence, S Walsh, J Watts, M Lett, S Taylor, N Lennon, G Parker, S Clandge, M Robins, S Campbell, S Wilson, K Poole.

#### **LEEDS UNITED v EVERTON**

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: --, --, --, 2-0, 1-0, 2-0, 3-0, 1-0, 2-2.

HOW THEY LINE UP LEEDS UNITED (from) N Martyn, G Halle, D Wetherall, R Molenaar, I Rush, C Palmer, L Bowyer, L Sharpe, I Harte, B Deane, A Yeboah, R Wallace, A Dongo, A Gray, M Ford, M Jackson, M Beeney

EVERTON (from): N Southall, P Gerrard, E Borrett, D Unsworth, T Phelan, D Watson, C Short, A Grant, J Parkinson, D Ferguson, G Speed, G Stuart, M Branch, P Rideout, M Holliger, J Speare, C Thomson, N Barmby

### SUNDERLAND v

MANCHESTER UNITED TICKETS: Sold out

#### 10-YEAR RECORD: —, ..., ..., ..., .2-1, ..., ..., ..., ..., ... HOW THEY LINE UP

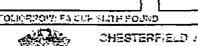
SUNDERLAND (from) L. Perez, G. Hall, D. Fublicki, R. Ord, A. Michille, D. Kolly, A. Rae, K. Ball, M. Gray, P. Bracewell, C. Russell, J. Mullin, L. Howey, D. Preece, P. Slewart, S. Agnew, M. Bridges, D. Williams MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P. Schmeichel, G. Neville, D. May, G. Patlister, D. Irwin, D. Beckharn, R. Johnsen, E. Cantona, R. Giggs, A. Cole, O.G. Solskpacr, B. McClair, K. Poborsky, P. Neville, R. van der

72001: FAI DUP SOUTH ROUNE

DERBY COUNTRY MEDLESSTOUGH TICKETS: Sold out

CUP RECORD (home team): P 5, W 2, D 1, L 2, F 6, A 10. HOW THEY LINE UP DERBY COUNTY (from): R Hoult, G Rowett, P McGrath, I Sterac, L Carsley, R van der Laan, D Powell, C Dailty, A Asanovic, P Trollope R Willems, A Ward, M Taylor, P Simpson, S Flynn.

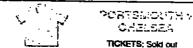
MIDDLESBROUGH (from): B Roberts, N Cox. C Flerning, R Mustoe, M Back, Junanho, F Ravanelli, C Hignett, A Moore, C Blackmore P Stamp, G Walsh.



MEEXH dy. TICKETS: Sold out CUP RECORD (home team): P.3, W.1, D.0, L.2, F.6, A.7

HOW THEY LINE UP CHESTERFIELD (from). B Mercer, J Hewet, M Jules, C Perkins, M Waliams, C Beaumont, S Gaughan, J Howard, I Dunn, G Lund, S Dyche, P Holland, A Morris, A Mitchell, J Lomas

WREXHAM (from): A Marriott, M Cartwright, M McGregor, D Brace, A Humes, B Jones, B Carey, P Hardy, M Chalk, C Skinner, P Word, B Hughes, K Russell, G Owen, D Brammer, W Phillips, S Warkin, K Connolly, G Bevinett, S Morns,



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CUP RECORD (home team) P2.W1.D1,L0,F2,A1

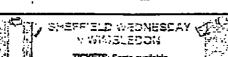
HOW THEY LINE UP PORTSMOUTH (from): A Knight, R Pethick, R Perrett, A Thomson, A Awford, P Hall, S Igoe, F Simpson, D Hillier, M Sveneson, L Bradbury, A McLoughtin, A Cook, A Dobson,

CHELSEA (from) F Grodas, D Petrescu, F Lebocut, S Clarke, F Sincton, S Minto, R Dr Matteo, C Burloy, G Vialli, E Johnsen, D Wise, P Hughes, A Myers, J Morris, M Nicholls, G Zola, M Hughes, N Colgan

20: A Shearer (Newcastle United), 18: I Wright (Arsenal), 14: D Yorke (Aston Villa). 13: R Fowler (Liverpool), F Ravanetti (Middlesbrough), L erdinand (Newcastle Unitad). 12: O G Solskjær (Manchester United), M Le Tissier (Southampton). 10: C Sutton (Blackburn Rovers), S Collymore (Liverpool), E Eloiku (Wimbledon). 9: D Dublin (Coventry City), S Claridge (Leicester City).

22.000/G100020015002 B2001504 SVA 2 SV 1-4: Manchester United; 9-2: Liverpool; 10-1: Newcastle United; 16-1: Arsenat; 50-1: Aston Villa, Chelsea; 80-1: Wimbledon, Sheffield Wednesday. Odds supplied by Ladbroke

The official Internet site of the FA Carling Premiership is at http://www.fa-carling.com/



TICKETS: Sezis available CUP RECORD: No previous meeting

HOW THEY LINE UP SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from.) K Pressman, M Clarke, P Atherton, D Stetanovic, J Newsome, S Oakes, D Walker, I Nolan, S Nicol, G Whittingham, G Hyde, M Pembridge, R Blinker, R Humphreys, A Booth, D Hirst, L Briscoe, W Collins, O Trustfull, B Carbone.

WIMBLEDON (from): N Sulfivan, K Cunningham, A Kimble, V Jones. D Blackwell, O Leomhardsen, R Earle, E Exoku, D Holdsworth, M Govio, C Perry, J Goodman, B McAllister, N Ardley, S Castledine, M Hartord, D Jupp, A Clarke, P Fear, P Heald, B Murphy.

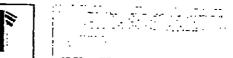


LIVERPOOL V NEWCASTLE UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out 10-YEAR RECORD: 2-0, 4-0, 1-2, -. -, --, --, --, 0-2, 2-0, 4-3

HOW THEY LINE UP LIVERPOOL (from) D James, D Matteo, R Jones, S I Bjornebyc. J McAteer, N Ruddock, P Babb, J Barnes, S McManaman, M Thomas,

J Redknapp, S Collymore, R Fowler, S Harkness, J Cerragher M Kennady, A Warner, L Jones, P Berger, B T Kvarme NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): S. Hislop, P. Smicek, W. Barlon, J. Bereslard, D. Batty, D. Peccock, R. Lee, P. Beardsley, L. Ferdinand, F. Asprilla, R. Elikott, D. Ginola, K. Gillespie, S. Watson, L. Clark, P. Albert,



10.50pm BBC1 Match of the Day (highlights, includes Derby County v Middlesbrough)

11am Sky Sports 1 Gosis on Sunday 1pm Sky Sports 1 Portsmouth v Chelsoa (live) 4pm BBC1 Sheffield Wednesday v Wimbledon (live)

7pm Sky Sports 1 Liverpool v Newcastle United (live)

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7

FOOTBALL

# Portsmouth's run of success built on shaky ground

hat bitter-sweet games football plays with our emotions. On Wednesday, flying as high as it gets, we had the sublime exhibition from Manchester United in the European Cup. By Thursday, we were taken to the depths again by the Crown Prosecution Service's confirmation that the match-fixing trial sullying the essence and integrity of the sport, is to go on for months, perhaps years

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Atin

·s deal

We are lifted, we are crushed. Yet the weekend comes and with it the FA Cup. The great traditions that have gone on since before any of us were born are revisited on Sunday at Fratton Park, where Portsmouth, Cup winners in 1939, take on Chelsea. the team that would bless the Cup Final this year with all the grace and skills that you could

Portsmouth could beat Cheisea, no doubt about that. Chelsea are so gifted that they can outwit Manchester United, Liverpool, any team in the land; and Chelsea are so profligate of those talents that an honest team such as Pompey could take them in half a

Intriguing, and the pity is that Fratton Park, on its last legs, is reduced to 15,500 capacity - less than a third of the 51,385 who cheered Portsmouth to the echo against Derby County in the sixth round of this competition just after the Second World War.

At Portsmouth you can feel the gravity of the game's history; you can sense a club fallen on hard times, grappling for a home, for a place in the future and yet, with ruthless intent, aiming to put an end to the fresh dream of Gianfranco Zola and his imported pals.

Who is plotting Chelsea's downfall? Why, Terry Venables. He is using Portsmouth, the club he has purchased for one pound, to resuscitate both the compulsion that he can own and run a leading football

ROB HUGHES



Weekend View

mouth can survive this season and survive the drastic decline that, in the modern financial age, will one day destroy the structure of League football as we have known it in

Venables is not the manager at Portsmouth, indeed Terry Fenwick, the former England and Tottenham Hotspur defender, is. "As far as I am concerned, Terry Venables is the best coach in the world,"

nd Fenwick celebrated his award as the first Adivision's manager of the month yesterday by dipping his toe into some mild controversy. "The fact that he isn't the England manager is the biggest ricket the FA has dropped since the 1966 World Cup finals. Terry did a great job with England last summer and spent two years assem-bling a great squad of players. He lifted the whole nation with what he achieved at Euro 96 and then left. It seems crazy. With all due respect to Glenn Hoddle, he is not in Terry's league. England's loss is Ports-

Of course, it changed the history not only of Portsmouth but of Chelsea. For Hoddle, having directed the London club halfway towards its present standing, handed over club and the belief that Ports- to Ruud Guilit and the Dutchman, in his first season, has broadened the visions, the ambitions and the allure of Chelsea in a manner not seen for two decades.

All of that will not be lost on Portsmouth. They have aspirations of their own. Alan Knight, the goalkeeper who came south from Balham at 16 and dropped anchor at Portsmouth, plays his 738th game for Pompey. An England youth and Under-21 international, a player dropped at the start of this season, a single-club loyalist. Knight thinks back to 1992 when Portsmouth lost an FA Cup semi-final against Liverpool.

"After the defeat on penal-ties. I looked around the dressing-room," he said. Darren Anderton and Kit Symons were really upset at missing out on the final. I thought, at least they will get another crack at success in their careers; I had missed my last chance ... but now it's come again.

The only other players inthat Portsmouth side who face Chelsea tomorrow are the sweeper, Andy Awford, and Alan McLoughlin, the Ireland international whose goal against Nottingham Forest put Portsmouth into that semi-Their new team-mates

include Lee Bradbury, the striker bought out of the Army for £400 so that he can travel to Portsmouth by catamaran from Cowes, and Russell Perrett, a defender who was fitting double-glazing a year and a half ago.

These read like tales of non-League football and, unless Portsmouth achieve further success in the Cup or promotion to the Premiership, they could be common stories at whatever ground Portsmouth find if they leave Fratton Park. Purchased for under £5,000

mouth's eain." nearly a century ago, the future of the ground is now in doubt. It all makes Venables's £1 gambie seem not only remote but also whimsical And still they could beat

# Brazilian settles on Tees and sympathy

OHNINUL

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL

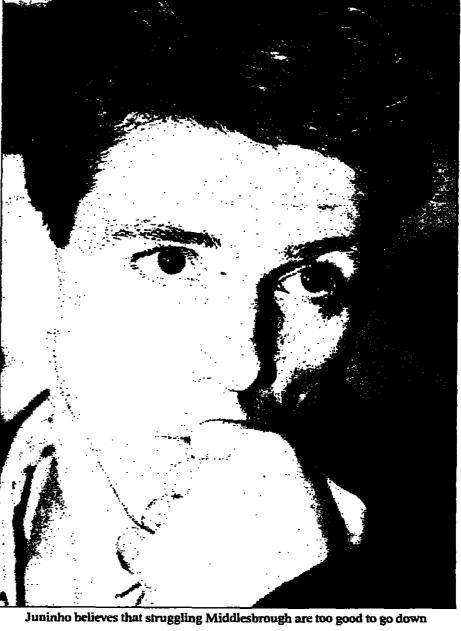
By David Maddock

the charmingly named village of Ingleby Barwick, between Middlesbrough and Darlington, lives the player who wears the most famous football jersey in the world, For the past three seasons, Oswaldo Giroldo Junior, or Juninho, has worn the No 10 shirt of Brazil, acquitting himself honourably in the jersey made legend by Pelė. He sports the same number for Middlesbrough, a shirt made famous by Alan Foggon and John Hickton.

There is the money, enough even to make a struggle at the foot of the FA Carling Premiership seem attractive, but sitting in the comfortable if anonymous house that the club bought for him. Juninho conveys too much honesty, too much fresh-faced warmth, to be painted merely as another mercenary. Ravanelli and Emerson may not care unduly for Middlesbrough, but Juninho clearly does.

"The image of some for-eigners in England has not been portrayed well and it hasn't helped, but I can honestly say that I have never had a problem with living here." he said. "Of course, in the beginning it was difficult. but I brought my family here, my mother, father and sister. and it is much easier for me. The people here have always been kind to me and that has made me happy."
Sitting in his mock Victori-

an living room, with the mock coal fire burning gently, it is clear that Juninho has settled into an English culture that he describes as "very different" from home. It is



clear, too, that he is content. Yet the question remains. Why Middlesbrough? If England, why not Manchester United or Liverpool. Newcastle United or Chel-

Juninho is diplomatic and cautious, perhaps because of the much publicised outbursts from his less sensitive team-mates. He says that he has no problems with the comments attributed to Ravanelli, Middlesbrough's Italian forward, about the club and his team-mates, but insisted: "I'm here because I believe in Middlesbrough. and I believe in Bryan Robson. It is easy to win big honours with teams like Milan or Manchester [United], but to do it with Middlesbrough is a far bigger challenge. I still think we can meet that challenge."

Juninho arrived from São Paulo in November 1995 for £4.75 million. With mesmeric skills and a vision that English players invariably lack, his reputation was enhanced by a wonderful display for his country against England the previous summer. Two seasons on, he is too frequently a peripheral figure as the club sits at the foot of the Premierskip. Yet Juninho's

because in the next five days he will play two games that could transform a bitterly frustrating season into a highly successful one. Today, against Derby

argument carries weight.

County at the Baseball Ground, Middlesbrough contest a place in the semi-finals of the FA Cup, On Wednesday, they take a 2-0 lead into the second leg of a Coca-Cola Cup semi-final with Stockport County.

He would like to stay with Middlesbrough, that much is clear, but more than anything he wants to wear that Brazil No 10 shirt in the

World Cup finals next year. To do so, he knows he must be playing in a successful team, and that is where the FA Cup comes in.

"I travelled to Brazil last week to play for my country." he said, "and the coach, Zagailo, ribbed me about Middlesbrough's position. He said it as a joke, but in fact he meant it as a very serious point.

"Of course he's concerned, and so am 1. It would be very difficult for me to play in the first division and for Brazil. I explained to him that we are a very good team, and we are doing very well in the cups. When I came to Europe it was important to do well in the league, but also to play in European competitions, If we win one of the cups, and I think we will, then I will be fulfilling that ambition and Zagallo will be happy.

Juninho argues passionately that things are finally beginning to take shape at the Riverside Stadium. "With so many foreign players, so many different languages, it was hard at the start of the season," he said. "Now we are beginning to play well, and we can escape relegation. We are too good to be in this position."

he FA Cup, he said, is "almost an obsession in England, and I like that. I like the passion there is here for the football and I enjoy the style of play. We have to go to Derby after beating them well just a few days ago, but I know it will be a very different game this time. But even though we are in a more comfortable situation in the Coca-Cola Cup, I think we can win them both."

His optimism is refreshing, especially for those Middlesbrough supporters who have despaired of the criticism that their club has been forced to endure, both from outsiders and the very footballers that they were hoping would improve their image.

"I am a fan, I will support this club even when I leave," Juninho said. He would dearly like to continue playing in Europe, but does not know yet if it will be in England because, as Brazil's No 10, he is not without ambition. To Juninho, that ambition does not exclude

# Albania forced to | Hughes earns interest on advance play away by Fifa

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

FIFA, football's world governing body, has ordered Albania to play their next two home matches in the World Cup qualifying series in Granada.

The fixtures against Ukraine on March 29 and Germany on April 4 were due to have been played in Tirana. the Albanian capital, but the decision to switch them was taken because of the political unrest in the Balkan country. The Spanish football federa-

tion offered Granada's Los Carmenes stadium, which has a capacity of 15,400. However, it has not yet been decided whether Albania will have to use the same venue when they play Northern Ireland in group nine on September 10.

Castrol UK is to end its sixyear sponsorship agreement with Swindon Town, the Nationwide League first division club, at the end of this season. The oil firm will continue to support the club in a more minor financial role. Martin Stevens, the Swin-

don marketing manager, said: 'All good things come to an end and both of us feel we have developed the partner-ship as far as it can go. Terry Venables, the Australia coach, has agreed to free Mark Schwarzer, the Middlesbrough goalkeeper, from international duty to play for his club in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final second leg against Stockport County at the Riverside Stadium on Wednesday. Schwarzer was due to join the Australia squad for a match against Macedonia on the same night.

"Mark is keen to establish himself as our No I goalkeeper," Bryan Robson, the Middiesbrough player-manager, said. "With a Wembley place at stake, it is an important game for the club. Australia have eight games from now until July, and this is the only clash." Middlesbrough lead

2-0 from the first leg. Gareth Farrelly, 21, the Aston Villa midfield player, has rejected a new 312-year contract. The Ireland international, whose present contract expires in the summer, is frustrated by his lack of first-

team opportunities. Martin Bodenham, 47, of East Looe, Cornwall, who is one of England's most experienced officials, has been chosen to referee the Coca-Cola Cup final at Wembley on Sunday, April 6.

Bryan Hughes. The mere name, not to mention his goalscoring skills from the Wrexham midfield, produced a glint in the eyes of Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, and Mick McCarthy, his Ireland counterpart. There must be a trace of Welsh or Irish ancestry — a Dafyd or Seamus Hughes lurking among the grandparents —

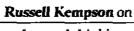
made discreet inquiries. Their search proved fruitless. Hughes is pure Anglo-Saxon - born in Liverpool, only five minutes from Goodison Park, with not a trace of a Celtic bloodline. "I'm English through and through," he said, in a rich Scouse accent. "And I'd love to

play for England one day — of

surely? Gould and McCarthy

course, I would." Hughes, 20, has aiready taken the first tentative stens on the road to international recognition. He was one of only two second division players selected for the Nationwide League Under-21 squad that drew 1-1 with Serie B under-21s in Genoa last month. Calm and confident, consistently creative, he did not look out of place amid the young bucks

> Foggia. His education takes another unexpected curve tomorrow. when Wrexham play Chesterfield in the unlikeliest of FA



a forward-thinking youngster charging

his cup to Wembley

Cup quarter-finals. If he is excited, he keeps it well hidden; the prospect of a place in the last four produces no more than a tingle of anticipation. Little fazes him. "I remember listening to the

draw on the radio, driving

along in the car, and I was a bit disappointed when we came out with Chesterfield." he said. "I was hoping for one of the bigger clubs, a Premiership club. Something to test ourselves against.
Then I thought: 'Hang on. It means a second division side is going to reach the semi-

finals. That's got to be good for the league. One of us is going to be one game away from playing at Wembley. Just imagine it: Wrexham playing at Wembley. You can dream. can't you. It's phenomenal." Hughes's only visit to Wembley was in 1986, as a ten-year-

old, when his beloved Everton were beaten 3-1 by Liverpool in the FA Cup Final. It was not a from Torino, Palermo and for day out for the Evertonian family "I was a bit young, I don't remember too much about it," Hughes said "I



don't think we were very happy, though." Four years later Liverpool

spotted him playing for Archbishop Beck School in Walton and asked him to attend their centre of excellence. It also ended in tears, "Nothing came of it," Hughes said. "They had a 31-strong squad and I just didn't feel part of it. I felt like an outsider. After a few months, I got fed up and left." Liverpool's loss later became Wrexham's gain, via the



Hughes: Wrexham's gain

#### Eastern Sunday League with Bromborough - "across the water" in Birkenhead, "It was a good league, there were always lots of scouts watching," Hughes said. "Sure it would have been nice if Everton had come in for me, it would've been great, but once I'd signed for Wrexham, that was it. That's where my heart

Hughes still lives near Goodison with his family. The daily 45-minute trip to Wrex-ham is comfortable and his contract does not expire until the end of next season. "I've got ambition, like everyone, and I feel I've got the ability to get on," he said. "You hear rumours now and then, about so-and-so being interested, but

I'm quite content here until something happens." Wrexham have eliminated Colwyn Bay, Scunthorpe United, West Ham United, Peterborough United and Birmingham City in an exhilarating eight-match series, with Hughes contribut-

ing six goals. Though he makes no predictions for Chesterfield, family and friends are already convinced. "They think we're going to get there, get to Wembley," he said. "They're making plans, talking about booking Cup Final tickets and everything. It's amazing, isn't

#### Liverpool hopes By DAVID MILLER ONLY the gifted touch of Robbie Fowler, exhibited Fowler was unfortunate not when scoring one of the finest

Fowler carrying

goals of the season so far. against SK Brann on Thursday, offers Liverpool much hope of closing the gap in their pursuit of Manchester United. And that touch has recently been missing in the FA Carling Premiership. Just when Liverpool needed

to be turning the screw on the leaders, they have faltered, and the position could worsen over the weekend, with United likely to increase their goal tally at the expense of Sunderland before Liverpool enter a difficult home game against Newcastle United. By the time Liverpool play Brann in the home leg of the Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final, they may effectively be out of the hunt for championship honours.

Fowler's goal, scored after only nine minutes in Bergen, was simultaneously instinctive and brilliant. Taking a high diagonal pass wide on the left, he flicked the ball over his and his marker's head with his right heel, spun past the defender to take the dropping ball in his stride, and hit an early left-foot drive beneath an unprepared goalkeeper. It was a moment of dexterity

performed at a faster pace than Paul Gascoigne's memorable goal against Scotland in the European championship last summer.

to give Liverpool a first-leg lead. After Geir Hasund had equalised two minutes into the second half. Fowler beat the goalkeeper with a floating drive that clipped the top of the crossbar, and subsequently might have been awarded a penalty by the Russian referee when the goalkeeper pulled him off the ball. Yet although Barnes and,

some of the time. Redknapp played a fine possession game, Liverpool have long-term problems. Two defenders, Wright and Ruddock, are too old for comfort: Barnes, always moving at his own pace, yet covering the whole field, cannot remain evergreen indefinitely; and a replacement has to be signed for Collymore, who was left on the bench. Collymore admitted yesterday: "I am the club's odd man out." Roy Evans, Liverpool's manager, said he was not interested in. Tore Andre Flo, the supposedly coveted Norwegian striker. Assuming they make sure of their semi-final place, Liver-

pool will be hoping to avoid Barcelona, who swept to a 3-1 first-leg lead against AIK Solna. The other two fancied teams, Benfica and Paris Saint-Germain, fared poorly. Benfica were beaten 2-0 at home by Fiorentina and Paris held to a goalless draw at home by AEK Athens.

### FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leopards 93 Worbutwisser Lance Louis (NEA): Charling 83, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NEA): Charlotte 122 Boston 121 (OT); Washington 99 Mami 85; Atlants 117 Philadelphia 104: New Jersey 102 Vancouver 98; Orlando 94 (4 Charles) LA Clippers 93.

BIATHLON

NOZAWA ONSEN, Jepen: World Cup: Men (20km): 1. M Kinchner (Ger) 58mm 21 6sec (p. pers), 2. V Hestalanti (Fin) 1hr 00min 35.1sec (1); 3. O Ryenkov (Bel) 100:47.3 (ii); 4. P. Gross (Ger) 1:01:45.2 (ii); 5. V Magurov (Russ) 1:01:53.3 (ij); 8. A Kobelev (Russ) 1:02:00.0 (i). World Cup positione: 1. E E Bionadalen (Nor) 277/pis. 2. Magurov 261; 3. S Fischer (Ger) 254; 4. P. Mushmov (Russ) 225; 5. Ryenkov 216; 6. Gross 210. Wormen (15km): 1. A Grasic (Slovetkie) 48:45.2 (2); 2. U Dast (Ger) 47:42.2 (ij); 3. A Stera (Pol) 47:46.9 (ii). A Forsberg (San) 47:93.3 (ij); 5. A Mallat (Fin) 48:26.2 (ii); 6. N Talamova (Russ) 48:41.3 (2). World Cup positions: 1. Forsberg 290; 2. Dast 259; 3. 5 Greiner-Pette-Merrm (Ger) 240; 4. G M Andreessen (Nor) 219. 5. C Miograt (Fi) 216. 6. A Silvetand (Nor) 211.

BILLIARDS

NORWICH: Strachan world matchpley championethy: Fourth round: (Singland unless stated): R Chaptean bt S Muttern (India) 4-2. N Patel (India) bt R-Cose 4-0: R Folkher (India) bt A Shandilya (India) 4-2: S Agrawet (India) bt A Shandilya (India) 4-1: C Shut bt D Joshi (India) 4-2: Natharnson bt M Fermera (India) 4-3: G Sethi (India) bt S Naisty 4-2: P Glictura bt B Bhastar (India) 4-1.

YORK: EWIBA national championships: Unbedged pains: Querter-finals: J Arraud and E Dibble (Atheriey) to L Mescalle and D Fredd: (Richardson's) 22-21: A Burgest and C Cloke (Northavori) bi D Gibbons and C Clarke (Mansfield, North London) 20-18: C and A Gowshall (Louth) bi P Pord and S Sultium (Whitekinghis) 22-13: A Knott and S Wison (South Shelds) bi Christina of Cheryl Northal (Teighphidge) 22-9. Semi-finals: Burgess and Cloke bi Arnaud and Dibble 25-11. Knott and Wison bi Gowshall and Gowshall 22-20.

and Governal 22-20. CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: East London (first day of three)\* Border 117 (J. N. Gillespee 7-34). Austrelians 208-5 (M.E. Waugh 62) GHEFFELD SHBLD (first day of four): Adelaide: South Australia 216; Victoria 72-1, Perith: New South Wales 99 (B. Mulder 5-2); Western Australia 211-7 (A.C. Gillentis 55 not out, R. J. Campbell 64, B.P. Julien 51: G. R.J. Matthews 4-56). Hobert: Tesmania 305-6 (R.T. Ponting 159, S. Young 92) v. Ourensland

— no pley, rain

FOOTBALL EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Quar-ter-finals, first leg; Barcelona 3 AK Solna 1. Benfas D Forentine 2; Paris Saint-Gormain 0 AEK Athens 0; SK Brann 1 Liverpool 1

LAUTE ALVIEN LINES.

TENMENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Fifth round: Coca-Cota Niteriol 5 February 1 F challenge match: Scotland 5 England 1 FA YOUTH CUP, Fourth-round replay:

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Cup. Second maint: Wednesheld 3 Twidsle 1 UK LUMIG WOMEN'S FA CUP Sorth round replay; Breston 2 Ausenul 4 SCHOOLS MATCHES: North-West Alder Cup: Second round: Bolton 1 Bury 3 Midland Federation Cup: Werwicksher 2 Northemptonshere 2 Premier League Trophy; Under-19: Quarter-finel: Hampshire 3 Surey 2 Under-19: Quarter-finel: Hampshire 3 Surey 2 Under-19: Quarter-finel: Busser 0 Ontordshire 1 English Salckers Under-19 Trophy; Quarter-final: Brooklicki Community 1 Wyke Coll 3 English Goodyear under-16 Trophy; Quarter-final: Bestmanster Down 2 St. Joseph's Coll 3 English Knowles Cup: Buckinghamshire 0 Susser 1. Other match: King's, CarterDury 3 Sevenosis 2 Sepanish LeAGUE: Scorting de Gion 2

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(Swei), P. Broadhura, 71. A Fractional Swei), A Johnstone (Jenn & Lova, 189), G. On R Bours, V. Philips, J. Cook, 180), M. James, A Hondon, C. Hendrick (J.S.), 72. P. U. Johnstoson, (Swei), E. Ponteri, 180), P. Loringon, Lajann, P. Piro, J. Tappang, W. Rick, (Aura, M. Franchi, D. Cook, 2003), M. Roc., 79. O. Malker, (Swei), S.A.), M. A. Marten, (Spo. P. O. Malker, (Swei), E. Cambon, 201), P. Debert, in S. Scanni, al. J. F. Loringon, (Spo. R. Tarrier, St.), W. Berghell, F. Loringon, (Spi. P. Villera, (St.), W. Berghell, F. Loringon, (Spi. P. Villera, S.A.), P. Hander, (SA), R. Duntarouse, MAMI, P.G. Doral, Open, Leading, first round, accures, (Debt.), (Sci.), Cod., (65), Norvall, 66, G. Marten, (Aura, R. Torra, L. Guer, 187), et al., (CR), S. Cirik, J. Hadde, D. Marten, R. Baran, (SB), E. Gund, N. Hadde, D. Marten, R. Baran, (SB), E. Gund, N. Hadde, D. Marten, R. Baran, (SB), E. Gund, N. Hadde, D. Marten, R. Baran, (SB), E. Gund, N. Hadde, D. Marten, R. Baran, (SB), E. Gund, N. Hadde, D. Marten, R. Baran, (SB), E. Gund, N. Hadde, D. Marten, R. Baran, (SB), E. Gund, N. Hadde, D. Marten, R. Baran, (SB), E. Gund, N. Hadde, D. Marten, R. Baran, (SB), E. Gund, N. Hadde, D. Marten, R. Baran, (SB), E. Gund, N. Hadde, D. Marten, R. Baran, (SB), E. Gund, N. Hadde, D. Marten, R. Baran, R. Baran, (SB), E. Gund, N. Hadde, D. Marten, R. Baran, R. Baran, (SB), E. Gund, N. Hadde, R. Baran, R. Bar FA YOU'H CUP: Pourm-hound repay Warland 3 Manchester United 2 UNIBOND LEAGUE: Unifilia final division Cup: Third-round reprise, Netherhold 0 Astron Wet 3 BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Cup. Section Visit Methodol 3 Thirds 3 1965 L. Green B. C., F. L. A. (1965 S. Cark.).
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Super 12 tournament Canterbury 19 Wellington 17 Canterbury Crusaders: Try: Kerr Con: Liley Pens: Liley 4. Wellington Hurri-canes: Tries: Ieremia. Preston. Cons: Preston 2 Pen: Preston

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7-6, 7-6
SCOTTSDALE, 'Arzona: Men's tournament: Second round: C Woodruff (US)
ti.1 Sanchez (Sp) 4-6, 6-3, 7-6

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AUSTRALIAN SUPER LEAGUE: Porth 22 North Queensland 20. AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE (ARL): Parrametta 10 North Sydney 8 **RUGBY UNION** 

ROTTERDAM: Men's tournament: Second round: A Radulescu (Ger) bit M Sonrer (Ger) 3-6, 7-6, 6-4. D Vacek (Czt) bit D van Scheppengen (Holf) 7-6, 4-6, 6-7. M Stich (Ger) bit T Carbonell (Sp) 7-6, 6-4, G Vansewe (Cro) bit G Radux (Fr) 7-5, 6-7, 6-3; R Kugiczk (Holf) bit D Pimosil (Ger) 7-6, 7-6; T Enquest (Swe) bit N Kieter (Ger) 6-2. Quartier-finals: Vaccil bit R Furtan (Ill 6-4, 1-6, 6-3; Enquest bit Redulescu 7-6, 6-3, Ivansevic, wo P Korda (Cz); Krajicek bit Stich 7-6, 7-6.

SNOW REPORTS

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(15cm new snow giving good spring skiing generally)
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(Very warm with slush on south slopes) fine 6 6/3 Wengen

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L. - lower slopes; U. - upper, art - artificial.

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SATURDAY MARCH 8 1997

Champion trails as German drivers dominate practice for Australian Grand Prix

# Hill has to watch the world go by

FROM OLIVER HOLT IN MELBOURNE

DAMON HILL has seen the writing on the wall every day since the end of last season and yesterday, as the impossibility of defending his hardwon world championship was rammed home, he saw pictures on a giant screen, too. Images of the best car in Formula One stared down at him from above Albert Park and gave him the closest view he is likely to get all season of a Williams-Renault.

Hill, a giant No l emblazoned on his T-shirt and on the front of his Arrows-Yamaha. had to survive a gearbox failure and a spin as he struggled his way to the thirteenth auickest time in the opening two practice sessions for the Australian Grand Prix tomorrow, sandwiched be-Prost Mugen-Honda of Olivier Panis and the Tyrrell Ford of Mika Salo.

The most enduring memory of the day was of his car being driven slowly to the pits on the back of a breakdown truck. When it arrived at the Arrows

#### TELEVISION

QUALIFYING: ITV: Today: 1 10-2 40pm

garage, it was winched slowly down to the floor, a mechanic sitting astride its nose, a sad symbol of Hill's fall from the

His car seat, lost in transit in Singapore, had not turned up either, so he had to use a temporary one. "If anyone sees it," he said afterwards with a smile, "will they let me

Ahead of him - more than 21/2 seconds a lap ahead of him. in fact - Michael Schumacher, who has been the soul of pessimism about his own title chances this season, put Hill's fall into sobering perspective when he fended off the challenges of the Williams drivers, Heinz-Harald Frentzen and Jacques

of the times in his Ferrari. Later in the afternoon though, in the heat of the Ferrari garage, Jean Todt, the Ferrari sporting director, said that although he was encouraged by Schumacher's performance, although it proved the new car was not "a disaster". as some had thought, he still expected Williams to be the team to beat in the race tomorrow. They look very,

very strong," he said. With Hill out of the championship equation, the new



order in Formula One took on a decidedly Germanic feel, with the Schumacher brothers, Michael and Ralf, and Frentzen in the top five places. Eddie Irvine, Michael Schumacher's Ferrari teammate, was the leading Briton. in sixth position.

Deciphering practice times, when different drivers run unknown fuel loads and exups. is as problematic as cracking a complex code, but there was no disguising the Williams comfort and their potential to improve. Their performance prompted Hill. as honest and reflective as ever, to allow his thoughts to wander off in search of things

"I seemed to be out on my own on the circuit for long periods of both sessions." Hill said, "so I fantasised I was at the front again. I saw a picture of a Williams on the big screen

and I thought it was me. But it wasn't. It seemed strange for a moment.

"Despite the problems we had, I think the day was a success. I am very pleased to be only 2½ seconds off the pace and, if we can keep the same margin in qualifying, that would be a good result for us. There is still a hell of a lot to do, though, so there is no point in getting carried away. "Whatever happens this There is no question about that. I do not walk away from the responsibilities that have been placed on me. It might have been difficult for Nigel Mansell to cope with not running at the front, but he had been racing a lot longer than me and I still have plenty of enthusiasm. I am ready for a tough year.

One. The next stage for me in season, I will see it through. proving I am a great driver is

### MELBOURNE PRACTICE TIMES

1. M Schumacher (Ger. Ferrari) 1min 32 496sec. 2, H-H Frentzen (Ger. Willams-Renaut) 1:32 910; 3, J Alass (Fr. Benetton-Renaut) 1:32 956; 4, J Wile-neuve (Can, Williams-Renaut) 1:33 371. 5, R Schumacher (Ger. Jordan-Peugeot) 1:33,437. 6, E Invine (GB, Ferrari) 1:34,157. 7, G Berger, (Austria, Benetion-Renaut) 1:34 271; 8, D Coultinard (GB, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:34,432, 9, J Herbert (GB, Sauther) 1:34,533, 10, M Haidonen (Fin, McLaren-Mercedes) 1:34,742; 11, G Fisichella (II, Jordan-Peugeot) 1:34 777, 12, O Pans

(Fr. Prost-Mugen Honda) 1.34 927: 13, D Hill (GB, Arrows-Yamaha) 1:35 073: 14, M Salo (Fin. Tymell-Ford) 1:36 142: 15, N Lami (II, Sauber) 1:36 223, 16, J Trudi (II, Munardi-Hart) 1:36 392; 17, J Verstappen (Holl, Tymell-Ford) 1:36.716: 18, J Mag-russen (Den, Stawari Ford) 1:37 023; 19, P Diniz (Br. Arrows-Yamaha) 1:38 092; 20, S Nakano (Japan, Prost-Mugen Honda) 1:39.652; 21, R Barrichello (Br. Stewart Ford) 1:40 002; 22, U Katayama Japan, Minardi-Hart) 1:40.947; 23, R Rosset (Br. Lole Ford) 1:41 166, 24, V Sospin (II, Lole Ford) 1:42 590.

to show I can do it in a car other than a Williams. At Arrows, I can do it by getting a better performance from the car than the experts consider Schumacher insisted after

the afternoon session that setting the quickest time was a "meaningless prize", but he admitted that the car, the final Ferrari creation of the designbeen replaced by Rory Byrne, performed better than he had

He has maintained throughout the winter that Ferrari would not be truly competitive until later in the season, so the preliminary indications yesterday suggest that there may be a closer fight between him and the Williams drivers than he has so far cared to predict.

Frentzen, whose fastest lan was 0.4sec slower than Schumacher's, revelled in his

quick and I have to say that I Toda's compliment by saying how "very, very competitive"; am confident." Ferrari were going to be.

If Hill's lowly position had been widely predicted, the biggest disappointment of the day was the performance of McLaren-Mercedes. Mika Hakkinen set the tone for their session when he failed to see Irvine's Ferrari and collided to a separate suspension prob-

comparing two types of tyres, lem. Hakkinen finished the O AUSTRALIAN GPURESONA Circuit length: 3,274/miles/5,269km Laps: 58, 189.89/miles/305,802km Lap Record: Villeneuve 1m33,421s 126.95mph/204.313km (1996) Hill Stand

day in tenth position, two places below his team-mate, David Coulthard. "We are a long way from the performance we achieved in testing," Ron Dennis, the McLaren managing director, said.

Further down the grid, the first outing of the new Stewart-Fords was also something of an anticlimax after such a feast of expectation and pubglitches limited the running of their drivers, Jan Magnussen and Rubens Barrichello, to a combined total of 20 laps and left them in eighteenth and 21st place respectively.

The debut of the Lola team, though, offered far less hope for the future. Their drivers, Vincenzo Sospiri and Ricardo Rosset, finished so far adrift of the leading times that it is unlikely they will make it onto the starting grid if the margin remains the same in qualify ing today.

# Chesterfield charged over mass brawl

CHESTERFIELD'S preparations for their FA Cup match last December. quarter-final against Wrexham tomorrow were upset yesterday when, along with Plymouth Argvie, they were charged by the Football Association in connection with a mass brawl in the Nationwide League second division match between the two sides at Saltergate 14 days ago (Richard Hobson writes). Four players were sent off

- Kevin Davies and Darren Carr. of Chesterfield, and Richard Logan and Tony James, of Plymouth - after the fracas. Ronnie Maugė, of Plymouth, had been dismissed earlier.

Meanwhile, the FA fined Crystal Palace and Norwich E40.000 each, £30.000 of which was suspended until 1998, for their parts in an incident involving 21 players

SE URK

However, in the case of Chesterfield and Plymouth, the fighting was more prolonged. With that in mind, the disciplinary committee may take sterner action. Both Chesterfield and

Plymouth have been given 14 days to respond to the charge and the likelihood is that both will ask for a personal hearing. John Duncan, the Chesterfield manager, was distraught after the incident hecause he knew immediately that Davies and Carr would be suspended for the cup-tie tomorrow, described in the town as the biggest game in the club's 131-year history.

Before the incident, the Wrexham tie was balanced at 50-50; the loss of the two lads does not help us." Duncan Taylor's recall comes at a trance By RICHARD HOBSON AND PETER BALL

EVERY year the FA Cup generates human interest stories in abundance but few can match the return to action of Martin Taylor, the Derby goalkeeper, in the quarter-final tie against Middlesbrough at the Baseball Ground this afternoon. After 29 months of worry, pain and toil, he makes his first appearance for the club since a double fracture of his left leg

placed his career in jeopardy. Jim Smith, the Derby manager, decided to recall Taylor after Russell Hoult conceded six goals in the FA Carling Premiership defeat by Mid-dlesbrough three days ago. Asked whether Taylor's selection represented a gamble. Smith replied: "It would have been more of a gamble to stick

challenge with Dave Regis in a first division game against Southend United in October 1994. The leg healed slowly and a pin inserted during a second operation remains in place. Although hours in the gymnasium helped him to recover physical fitness, Taylor was lacking confidence before he visited Clive Wilson-Fearon, a sports psychologist

and hypnotist. Goalkeepers do things instinctively and my problem was that I was thinking what action to take," Taylor said. By the time I had decided, it was too late. The hypnosis was a stepping-stone on the long way back and it helps me to do things naturally again."

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough player-manager, does not anticipate a repeat of Wednesday's scoreline. "This will be a totally different ith Russell." game," he said. "It was tough Taylor, 30, was injured in a for an hour before we ran

Calls charged at local rate, All calls are n vicerca for quality



away with it." He is also more concerned about the club's plight at the foot of the

"If we beat Derby, I won't be celebrating," he said. The first thing I'll do is look at the league results." Ruud Gullit, the playermanager of Chelsea, who play

Portsmouth at Fratton Park, is still coming to terms with the English fascination for the Cup. "When I played in Italy, you wanted to win the league, because then you would qualify for the European Cup and play against all the best teams. That was always your goal.

"Here, you seem to like the

Sheffield Wednesday and Wimbledon, the most improved sides in the Premiership, meet at Hillsborough tomorrow. If anything, David Pleat's success in turning around Wednesday is even more remarkable than Joe Kinnear's transformation of Wimbledon. He inherited lit-

tle more than a declining team of crowd-pleasers. "Last year, the job was more difficult than most." Pleat said. "Some of the problems just hadn't been

dealt with." Wrexham play Chesterfield at Saltergate, in the all-second division tussle, with injury doubts about Karl Connolly and Kevin Russell, their

Villeneuve, the championship

favourite, gave every sign that

he had not been wringing all

he could have done from his

Williams. "The last lap time

was going to be pretty quick

before I got held up by traffic."

Villeneuve said, but I don't

work we did today was just

but now I think I realise what

it means, why it is so impor-

tant to you. I can accept that."

Premiership guide, page 46 Juninho at home, page 47

# Cape Town makes the Olympic running

CAPE Town yesterday over-took Rome, in the opinion of many, as emotional favourite to stage the Olympic Games of 2004 (David Miller writes). A panel of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) named a shortlist of five candidates: Athens, Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Rome and Stockholm.

The regulations required a minimum of four from 11 bidding cities. So competitive was the standard, in the 20,000-word report of an eval-uation commission, that a fifth was included. Eliminated were Istanbul, Lille, Rio de Janeiro, San Juan, Seville and St Petersburg. "We nearly ran out of time in the final debate it was so heated," a member of the commission said.

Rome (1960) and Stockholm (1912) have previously staged the Games. Rome, with a billion-dollar expenditure programme for the Christian millennium, has widespread sports-orientated construction under way, but Cape Town's appeal as the first African host will prove hard to resist when the vote goes to the IOC membership on September 5.

Many argue, including critics in South Africa, that the newly-liberated country has more urgent priorities. The bid, however, has the emphatic approval of President Nelson Mandela and promises to create 90,000 jobs if accepted. Athens, historic first host of

the modern Games in 1896 and controversially bypassed for the centenary Games last year, staged by Atlanta, may find itself again sidelined in a two-headed contest between Rome and Cape Town. Buenos Aires would be South America's first Games host.

20 trains a day.

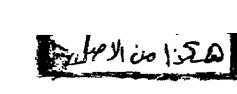
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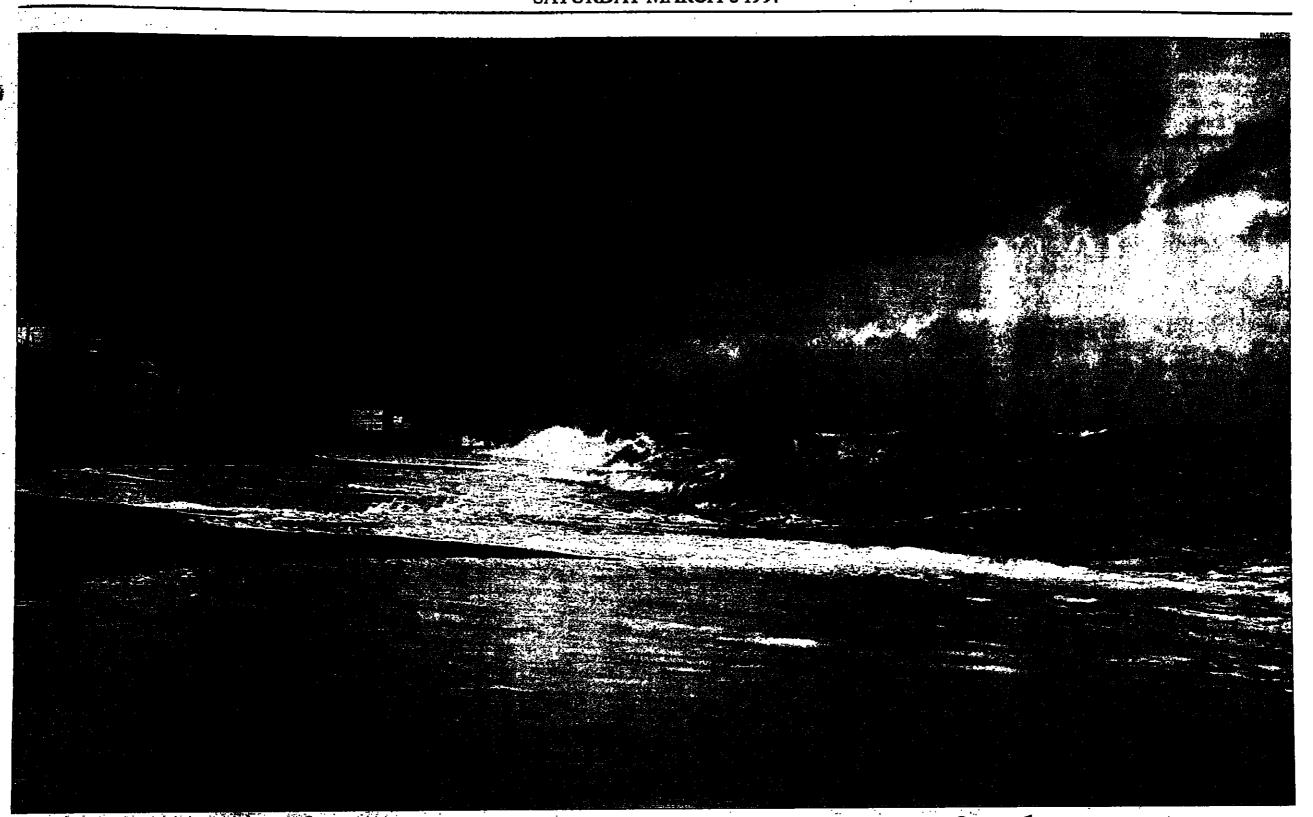
The moles convert. Paul Heiney country life - 13

# THE TIMES ekena

Diana's Caribbean island hideaways travel - 15



**SATURDAY MARCH 8 1997** 



### Suffolk coast: 1.1.97

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This all begins with a soft salmon. As we drink to the soon-to-be-departing year, my property-developer friend has just sensed from me the possibility (only the possibility) that The Times (his Times) might back Labour in the election. The temperature on the beach outside our window is well below zero. The hail is scooping in from the sea. Warnings of more ice in the night have already reduced our New Year's dinner party to three This news about The Times is yet another unwelcome fore-

We quickly get back to Aldeburgh-talk of music, fish and lifeboats. We have only the most desultory discussion about why so many Conservatives want to give Tony Blair a chance. My friend thinks that they (and now he includes me) are all mad. As the stormblown hail and shingle threaten to flatten the house, I raise the usual questionmarks against Tory competence, unity, corruption, leadership and fatigue — and try to sound as sane as i can.

### Chelmsford, Essex 3.1.97

Time-for-a-change will be a mantra in the coming election season. What does it mean? I am not a regular recorder of political conversations. Many years ago, as a Sunday Times reporter, I had a much-loved black book in which I wrote down what politicians told me; these days a comment from a reader, a friend, a political contact or a chance encounter is either an immediate topic for

The Times or it dies. New Year resolution: for the next few months I will try to ask questions about change and record some answers.

A few friends still live here in

Cheimsford where I was born. For most of them, I discover, the answer to my question is very simple. Their change has already happened. Some four years ago, around about the Black Wednesday" humiliation of John Major's main economic and foreign policy, but not just because of it, they decided that the Prime Minister should lose his job. Among Tories in London I am always told that on polling day voters will not remember the ERM: The letters themselves are already history, like NEDC and TSR2... they mean nothing." Maybe. Here it is not so much that people remember the ERM and the uncontrolled incompetences around it; it is just that it was then, at that specific faraway time, that they addressed themselves to politics; and that then, after making their decision, they went back, like sensible folk, to dinner, golf and commuting.

### Colchester, Essex: 4.1.97

Brian is a 35-year-old marketing manager for a small electronics company. (I will not give his name or any names in this diary: no one, neither the rulers nor the ruled, spoke to Time-for-a-change has become a mantra of the

pre-election season among newspaper writers and their readers. The Editor of The Times went in search

of what the phrase might mean. This is Peter Stothard's

diary of the days before the campaigners opened fire

attributable basis".) Brian is a he is going to vote Labour for the first time. Why? He talks of Conservative tax increases and sleaze before coming to what I think is his main point: "I've got a choice. I've never had a real choice before. Throughout my life I've been able to choose cars, supermarkets and holidays — but never politics. I could never have voted for Kinnock. But Blair is

I ask if that is not a bit flip: after all, perhaps it is because of the Tories that he has had all those choices. He looks Politicians, though schooled

to expect no gratitude from voters, always want it. John Major intends "to run on my record". Meeting Britain's many Brians will not raise his

Primrose Hill, London: 6.1.97 Back home in London I find a reader's letter. My former

Young, has claimed to hear new Times reader and says that from us the "throat-clearing of rats making prudent preparation for their destiny". If The Times were to back Blair at this election, would that be a fair

> charge? How should I answer? The Times judiciously endorsed John Major against Neil Kinnock in 1992. We enthusiastically supported Margaret Thatcher in all her election victories, except in the first when the paper was muzzled by a long trade union dispute. Before that The Times had settled around the line where Conservatives and Liberals met, flirting frequently with centre parties and coalitions. but supporting the Conserva-

tives on polling days. Are we a Tory paper? Some may think so - and not only on the Suffolk seafront. But a sense of the national interest (however inadequately sensed) has traditionally predominated over party interest at The Times. Editors with conserva-

me on what we call "an Sunday Times boss, Hugo tive values have long sought to be close to governing politicians and the governed people: but in the best days we have always listened to the latter the more closely.

Might we decide to abandon
"a sinking ship"? My more
impatient Tory friends often charge that our criticisms over the past four years have helped to push the party down. If we were ever in John Major's crew (and we were never fully signed up) we left our posts in 1992. If we formally abandon the Tories at this election it will not be because they are under water but because they have so often seemed dead in the water, barely moving, little led, unresponsive to the public instinct, not really a Conservative government at all.

Bloomsbury, London. 14.1.97 David is a history graduate who wants a job in journalism. As is prudent for those seeking career advice from The Times. he says that he is a Times reader. He would very much

like to be living at a time of powerful political change "like in 1945 or 1979". But he is not sure that this is it. "Blair and Major are so much the same. I have never seen the two of them in the flesh in the same room. Have you? Is it all a trick?" He

smiles like a small professor.

"For a tide of change you need big new ideas, like the Welfare State or Thatcherism. We don't have that, nothing like it." He pauses to scrabble for a piece of paper. "I voted for this government but now I hate them - and they all seem to hate each other. That's some sort of change, I suppose."

On the paper is written a mass of hostile quotes from Times leaders about John Major. I take my suspicions back. He is a Times reader. But when ask him which party he thinks we will support at the general election, he does not hesitate for a moment. "Oh, Conservatives," he says.

### Oxford: 17.1.97

The "hate" that David sees is all too apparent everywhere. Foolishly, I somehow still associate voting with roustabout and enjoyment. This season ought to impress us with ourselves. It ought to make us feel good. One of the questions when I was a student of Greek history here was why Athens, of all the many moderately civilised places in the 6th

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Mediterranean, became the birthplace of democracy. One of the answers was that only Athens had the drunken festival of the Dionysia in which the rules and hierarchies of ordinary life were regularly turned upside down. From that beginning came "bread and circuses", "Eatanswill" and other good election times. Now the parties are something else entirely.

### Knightsbridge: 22.1.97

Robert is a Somerset businessman and long-time Liberal supporter. He admires John Major as the man who "killed off socialism" in 1992. "Thatcher had done most of the heavy-lifting but if Major hadn't beaten Kinnock, then socialism would have been still alive. We all owe him a lot for

"But what Major didn't realise was that the country was only just beginning to change in 1992; he thought that it had stopped. Major offered Thatcherism with a friendly face; Blair offered strong leadership, strong rhetoric and moral conservatism with an even friendlier face. Blair has always seemed to be going somewhere. Labour will unlock some of the energy that we are wasting in this country."

Beside us on the stairs a phalanx of fellow businessmen is going up to a breakfast given by the Shandwick public relations company. I follow on. We are all going to listen to the Prime Minister rallying the company's corporate clients. Robert, it turns out, is taking

Continued on page 2

SHOPPING 23 GARDENING 45 PROPERTY 7.8 FEATURES THE NEW Out now in hardback from WH Smith and booksellers everywhere

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:aks, our

Having just been asked to take on this column, I was taken aback by Dr Sacks's view. I had assumed this to be a pretty innocuous little slot, tucked up cosily in the blameless Weekend section - yet

now a learned and much-respected man was citing the popularity of my new subject as an example of all that was wrong with the world. Ridiculous as it may seem, I feel compelled to write my first offering as a defence of the business of going into a shop.

The exchange of money for goods or services is often held up for headshaking and chinstroking. Shopping is denounced as a sterile, uncreative and soulless way to spend time - a modern evil. I believe it to be none of these things - as I shali irrefutably demonstrate in the coming weeks.

For now, I suggest two thoughts: one is that those doing the denouncing usually have wives who do much of their shopping for them. The other is that the strength of their denunciations

#### **SERIOUS SHOPPING** THE GOOD BUY

depends on what is being shopped for. For instance, I bet that Dr Sacks — I don't know this for sure but feel it uncontroversial to assert enjoys going to bookshops. I predict that he does not have a mental picture of Waterstones or Dillons when he comes on the radio and condemns shopping. I predict too that Dr Sacks does not condemn the shopper who, right now, may well be reading the jacket of The Politics of Hope by Dr Jonathan Sacks, deciding whether to part with £15.99 for the

pleasure of owning it. I further predict that Dr Sacks owns more books than he will ever read - most educated, no, every



educated person I have ever met certainly does. If Jonathan Sacks, or Melvyn Bragg or Tariq Ali can take me into their hallowed studies and not be able to point to at least one volume that has remained uncracked since the day they bought it - because they liked the look of it, or they decided that they should know more about suchand-such and then realised that they couldn't be bothered, or because they just fancied spending some money - then the binding on my argument falls apart. But I don't think they can do that, and

my argument remains intact. So I think that, if Dr Sacks were to look deep into his soul, he could not deny that he has at some time bought a book - and who knows what else? - purely for the thrill of parting with money in order to possess it. He must admit that he

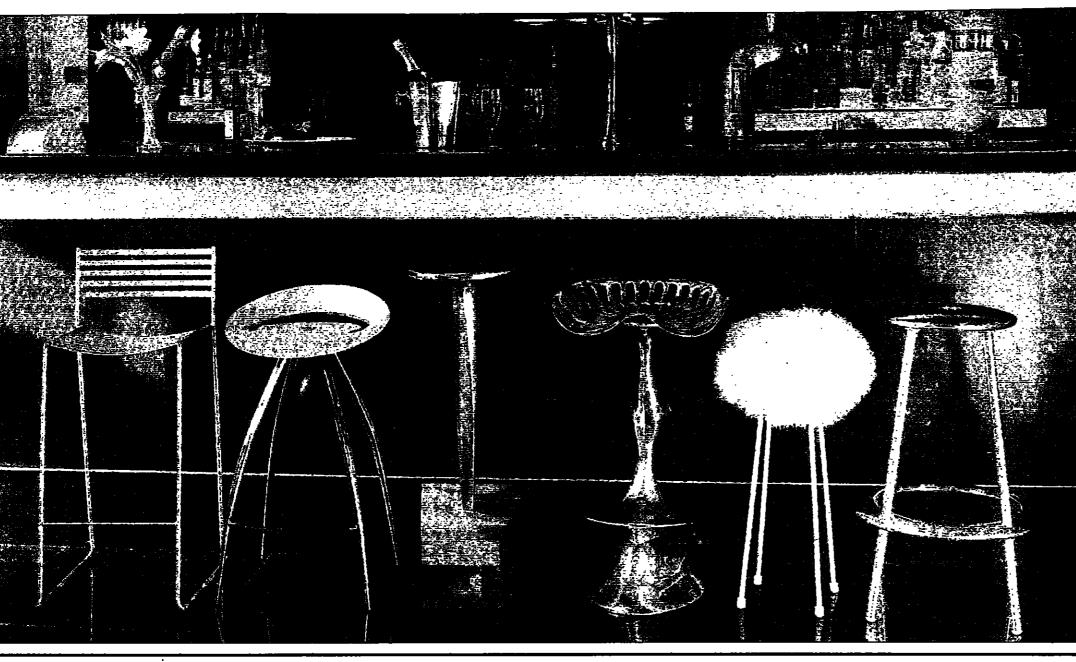
has derived pleasure from the shopping act. Who would blame him? Beautiful; tempting things, books - as are many things you find in shops. The prospect of enhancing our lives with a little beauty is reason enough for most of us to go shopping, over and above the need to pick up a pint of semi-skimmed on the way home.

o there is the search for beauty, and there is the search for self improvement too. I glance at my own bookshelves. I see, at random, Landscape and Memory by Simon Schama, I see The End of History by Francis Fukayama, I see Preparing for the 21st Century by Paul Kennedy, all unread, all bought for a mixture of motives because I liked the look of them,

because I wanted to keep up because buying these books said something about the sort of person I wanted to be. Much the same motives, I am sure, as drive other people who buy too many shoes or clothes or cosmetics or any of the other things of which Dr Sacks probably does not approve. They were mistakes, those shopping trips, but honourable ones.

As I said, this is my first shopping column. I apologise for trundling such a heavy trolley over you the reader, and indeed over the estimable Jonathan Sacks, whose book I really must buy, and, what's more, read. A man must examine his conscience. I have done so, and I find it to be clear. Next week, nitty gritty: I visit the hardware shop and attempt to buy half a dozen masonry nails.

# The best seats in the house



er than you or I or any of these

around the club] would have

expected". He does not want to

blame John Major. He prefers

impersonal forces. "This sense

has been around for a long

time," he says. "Since the '92

election?" I suggest, echoing

Robert's words in the Knights-bridge hotel. "No, longer.

since the fall of the Berlin

Wall. Without an external

threat the Left is free to climb

into our garden. It has hap-

pened in America, too. We

don't believe any more in big

cuts in tax and spending; so it

is just a matter of who will best

run the national shop at its

current size. The fundamental

ingredient of the change to the

left is not ideology but move-

ment itself. It may be danger-

ous. But none of us has dealt

We pause for a glass of

water: there is a lot of

abstemiousness and not much

celebration here. "John Major

has made a vacuum and

called it Conservatism. It is

not enough to rely on defend-

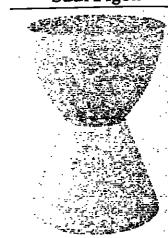
ing Westminster from the

Scots and Belgians — particu-

larly when Westminster in-

cludes Neil Hamilton and

The latest barstools. mix industrial chic with comfort and safety, says Sudi Pigott



ABOVE: Philippe Starck stool in fennel, orange or lavender plastic, £49.50, Conran Shop (0171-589 7401)

MAIN PICTURE (left to right): Stax silver-finished metal slatted stool, £75, Heal's (0171-636 1666). Lyra bar stool in natural beech and chrome. \$205. Heal's, as before. Aluminium nail stool with soft or hardwood base, from £195, Stephen Einhorn (0171-359 4977). Limited edition Mercury bar stool in aluminium with a seat design based on an antique tractor, £600, Phillip Watts, Three Designers (0171-633 9494). Pom Pom stool made from Tibetan lamb's wool, £200, Precious McBane (by appointment only; 0171-403 5270). Tall aluminium Luna bar stool, £230, Allermuir (01254 682421)

Thanks to Café Coast, 28 Lavender Hill, SW11. Photographs: Des Jenson. Styling: Caroline Griffiths

Continued from page 1 his briefcase and copy of The Times somewhere else. A pity. Compared to the complaints about the press and the opinion polls which I hear at the breakfast-fest (laced with some unbreakfastlike discus-

sion of Delhi-belly following

the PM's visit to India) the

analysis of my Somerset ac-

quaintance seems rather pow-

erful. The Prime Minister says that he is looking forward to getting back on his soap box. He expresses enormous faith the power of Michael Heseltine (or "Hezzy", as he calls him. placing a "y" where headline-writers prefer an "a"). He impresses upon his fellow breakfasters the power of the economic recovery to change voters' minds.

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Pall Mall: 23.1.97

How does John Major deal with an opponent who has moved himself so certainly and so forcefully on to Tory territory and still seems to have so much momentum behind him? The questioner is a worried Conservative from Gloucestershire. His potential respondents in London's clubland are all rather quiet. What sort of Prime Minister would Tony Blair be? Would he give way to the Left at the first battle or would he keep to the path that he has held in Opposition? An answer finally comes from a very senior Conservative for whom "Tony Blair is a man who won't ... let ... Britain ... down Every one of these words falls singly with a thud and repeats like whispered thunder.

Primrose Hill: 25.1.97

I am back at dinner with my property-developing friends. This time the place and the weather allow a larger gather-ing which includes a recently selected Conservative candidate. No Suffolk hail or flying pebbles could match the fury of this soon-to-be-MP at even the chance that The Times may back Tony Blair: "Why do you have to wait? Why not endorse us now? New Labour is a con-trick: its momentum is a bit of magic: I don't believe you could ever fall for it."

I try to explain why New Labour might be able to make new welfare reforms, why the party which created the welfare state might be the party that has the public consent to cut it back. The Conservatives' embrace of Labour's postwar settlement was the key to their re-election in 1951. Has not Labour now done the reverse, embraced Thatcher's reforms and promised to move them on? I cannot remember her replies — only the fine food and the spattering of her

St James's: 28.1.97

The Times Literary Supplement cites a quotation from the philosopher Elie Kedourie: Conservative discourse is the one "which hugs most closely the shape of this world". Or, as Dr Johnson put it, "I live in the world and I take in some degree, the colour of the world as it moves along.

At the birthday party of a formidable Tory fixer a politics-watcher argues to me that the sense of the country is "for

sensed that vacuum, occupied the space and given it his own name and his own hopes."

Pall Mall: 7.2.97

"It's going well, isn't it?" says one of the numerous (probably too numerous) Tory strategists who are readying themselves to run the campaign and lunching with editors along the way. "Before Christmas the Prime Minister was a bit worried about whether he was going to win but now he's absolutely certain he will win." With each brightly coloured plate of food (from golden ginger to glowing beetroot coulis) in his even more brightly coloured club restaurant he sets out a different set of achievements. "Unless you can show me why and where you disagree with any of our port us in The Times on polling day.

I try to explain that, as far as I can see, the Tory campaign is not going well at all. "Yes, The Times does support many of the Government's policies but. if there was ever an administration that was less than the sum of its parts, it is this one."

He does not sense any sorr of change except a rather "thoughdess farigue" with the Government, "A true political tide" requires massive problems (like uncontrollable inflaor unemployment). credible solutions (normally with an -ism at the end) and committed leadership (Attlee.

Bevan. Thatcher). I see this point. But these three conditions are not always visible at the time of voting. Sometimes you can

In Eastbourne, a woman was sitting on a copy of The Times.

'If we don't have Labour in this time, when are we ever going to have them?' she asks

not even that. "You mean policy is one thing and politics quite another?" he snorts.

Another well-known Tory supporter is waiting for a taxi on the street outside. "I know people want change," he says. "but they can change anything they like these days. It's a bloody Marks & Spencer society. Why do they want to change governments too?"

Grosvenor House Hotel:

10.2.97 "The Conservative Winter Ball is secondary only to the Party Conference", according to its chairman. Shirley Bassey is here. So are some big spenders who pay £170,000 for a signed book by Norma Major and £14,000 for Lord Archer's auctioneer's hammer. A senior Cabinet minister greets me rather acidly and inquires if the occasion is not "a bit partisan" for me: so someone has got the message. A politician whom I have never had a meal with in 15 years of writing about him says that we must have lunch": he speaks in a light muffled tone as though from the inside of a refrigerator. This does not

looks embarrassed, most sincerely embarrassed, to be seen

Shepherd's Bush Empire: 11.2.97

There is 80 minutes to wait before the American singer Suzanne Vega comes on stage. talk for a while to a quiet man who is alone except for a Evening Standard. He works for BT and claims to be "a bit of a Conservative". He thinks that Tony Blair will "get in, do a few things I like and quite a few things I don't like". Will you vote for him? "Oh yes," he says. When did you decide? About three years ago." What about John Major? He looks at me as though I were an empty beer cup. When Suzanne Vega comes on, she rather surprisingly makes a joke about Shirley Bassey. My Evening Standard man laughs and whispers. I thought she was

Eastbourne, Sussex: 2.3.97

The sea here is free of hail. The weather is warm. The crocuses are flowering around the bright new fences in the park. where the council has stopped the children biking over the grass. There are two women sitting underneath a new sculpture: it is made of retired wooden breakwaters from the beach and entitled Eighteen Thousand Tides.

Over the past eight weeks I have grown used to approaching Times readers and asking them questions that usually editors do not ask. One of the women is actually sitting on The Times, the two-day-old edition carrying the Wirral byelection catastrophe for the Tories: I hope (I am ever hopeful) that she has read it

She has always been a Labour voter. She had expected that John Major would have done more "for the poor. for the schools and the young people out of work". But she would not have voted for him even if he had,

What about her friends? Were any of them Conservatives?

Yes. "But Tony Blair is going to win, isn't he? If we don't have Labour in this time. when are we ever going to have them?"

She leans against the bleached white posts. There are times for things and their time has gone."



Horticultural Trades Association (established 1898)

20: AFES ROUND TANK



Eighteen Thousand Tides at Eastbourne: made from reclaimed wooden breakwaters

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 $\mathrm{ith}_{\mathrm{comfon}}$ utery, says ji bigott

Blue belles will be out in force this spring as denim is given a stylish edge, says Heath Brown





### THREE OF A KIND

The floaty feminine look around at the moment is too overbearing for some, so the answer is to wear a printed chiffon scarf that will add femininity without taking over. Here are our favourites. H.B.







TOP: Orange two-tone floral print chiffon scarf, £78, Gordana at Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1 (0171-708 2538) MIDDLE: Black and red swirl print scarf, £6.99, Next, 54-58
Kensington High Street, W8 (0116-284 9424)
BOTTOM: Pure silk chiffon large polika dot scarf, £52, Fiona Pitkin, A La Mode, Hans Crescent, SW1 (0171-221 8641)

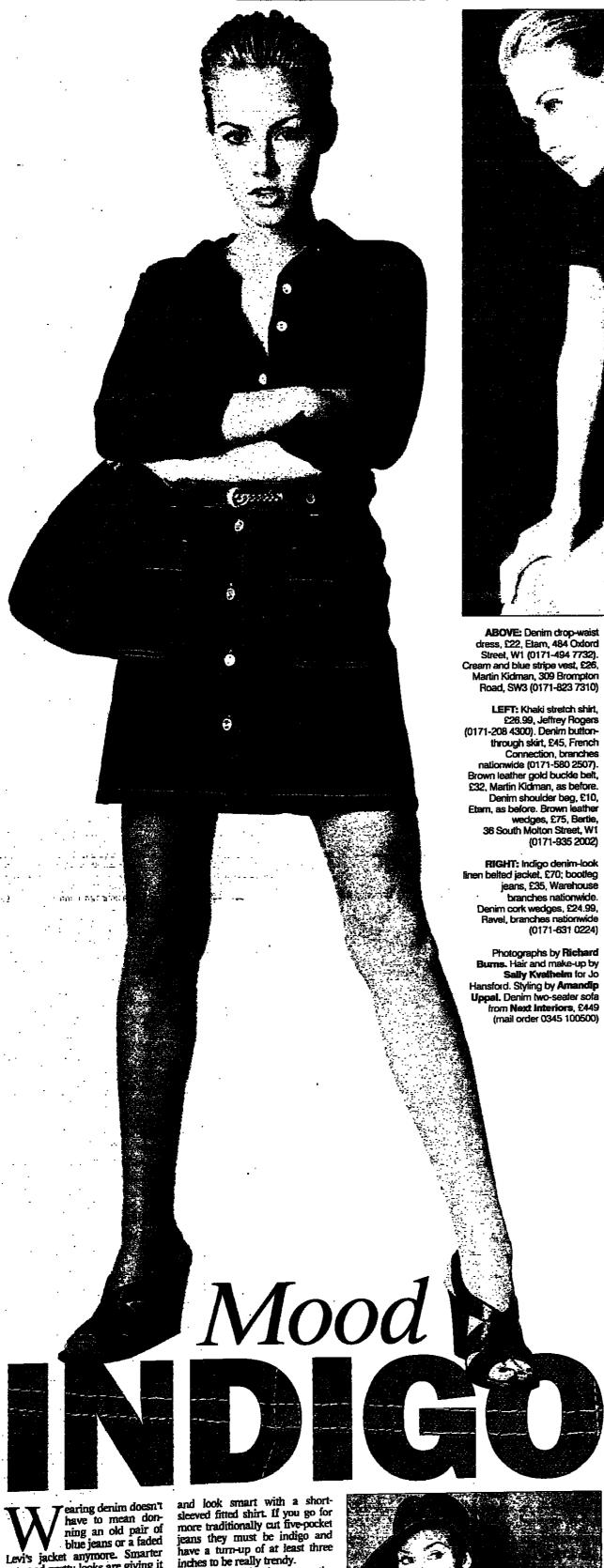


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inches to be really trendy.

The name in jeans at the moment is Evisu, with basic

baggy cuts selling at more than £100. Surprisingly, even at this price their arrival in Britain last year saw them completely sold out to the label-conscious crowd.

Maintenance of this stiffer den-

im is important and a full wash and spin is not advisable. It is best to have them dry-cleaned to retain their deep colouring and keep the

Accessory designers are also using denim: for shoes, bags and hats. In fact it is everywhere this season and getting the blues has never been so much fun.

RIGHT: Denim jacket, £94, Martin

Kidman, as before. Denim hat, £42,

Dollargrand (0171-794 3028)

fabric well-groomed.

cuts and pretty looks are giving it

The washed-out, double-

stitched traditional styles are now being discarded and replaced by deep indigo denim of almost industrial-strength stiffness. The

fabric is getting a make over and

is being used for expensive tailoring and couture-style dresses.

Chanel recently included signature designs made from denim

and last season saw Alexander

McQueen and John Galliano using it patched and pleated on wide trousers and sharp jackets.

The whole feel of this fabric

makes it a perfect antidote to over-the-top frilly flounces and so the

two mix well. A complete denim outfit also works and there is a

wide selection of trouser suits

around. Bootleg cut trousers in this stiff fabric keep their shape

a new edge.

gardening, the media presenters and personalities. there are many unsung figures whose effect on our gardening lives is much greater.

Where would gardeners be without four volumes of "Bean", as -W.J. Bean's invaluable Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles is known? But what kind of mind could compile a work like that? And what kind of mind can edit The Plant Finder, that annual and exhaustive compendium of which nursery sells what plant? How can anyone know and comprehend the 75,000 plants it contains and be sure the names are correct?

Tony Lord has edited The Plant Finder since it began ten years ago. He has a doctorate in chemistry. studied gardening at Kew. and worked for some years as garden adviser to the National Trust before turning freelance as an author, consultant and photographer.

Gingery, and with a drooping moustache, he has the slight stoop of a gardener (or a writer) and one of those calm, level voices I associate with paediatricians and psychiatrists. There is a bit of his native Leeds in the accent, too.

Over the years "the botanists" and subsequently The Plant Finder have taken a lot of stick for changing familiar plant names. Would you let this man change your plant names? Having talked to Mr Lord. I think I would. Mainly because he is resistant to change.

There has to be a good reason for us to accept a change," he says. By "us" he means himself as editor. and, when he feels in need of advice, an advisory panel of experts at the Royal Horticultural Society, which publishes The Plant Finder. Mr Lord is not a botanist, but he is a gardener with an encylopaedic knowledge of plants, and he is as reluctant as you or I to see names changed on the whim of some novel PhD. The Plant Finder must surely be as comprehensive and as universal a list of plants as has ever been published. At the University of North Carolina, it is even set as a course book for horticulture stu**Stephen Anderton** on the book no one

should be without

dents, as a representation of cultivated plants. And with recognition like that, the names must be

But who decides what is right?

Over the past ten years there has been considerable correction of plant names, often to get back to the proper, previously published name. Mr Lord sees this process as largely complete. "I do not foresee many more changes and we are getting the problem of different names for the same variety sorted out, too." That must be a good thing. How often do you see the same variety of some plant in nurseries under different names? "A few genera. such as saxifraga and willow, are still in an awful muddle. But they can be sorted out, as bamboos were.

As we talked, a bamboo expert arrived and they lamented a new paper by a rising botanist revising the names of bamboos. "Just when we thought we had them sorted out," the two of them groaned. "It really is perverse the way people try to rearrange the names." And this from the editor of The Plant Finder. Proof, were it needed, that he is on the gardener's side.

But there is more to The Plant Finder than accuracy. Mr Lord says its main aim is still "to tell people where to find the plants they want". He should know. From November to March he works fulltime reviewing the lists of plants which the contributing nurseries supply. A small team at the Royal Horticultural Society loads the lists on to computer to form the substance of The Plant Finder. But Mr Lord checks the 7,000 or 8,000 new names which come in every year against the available scientific or breeders' literature. Fifty per cent will be newly-bred cultivars, 20 per cent old cultivars reappearing for sale and an exciting 30 per cent will

be new plants from the wild or

collections abroad. Who said the age of new introductions was over? The book gets fatter every year, and nurserymen such as Michael Mitchell, of Slack Top Alpines at Hebden Bridge in Yorkshire, are pleased to be listed in there. Even when, as Mr Mitchell admits, they do not do mail order, it still pays to be included.

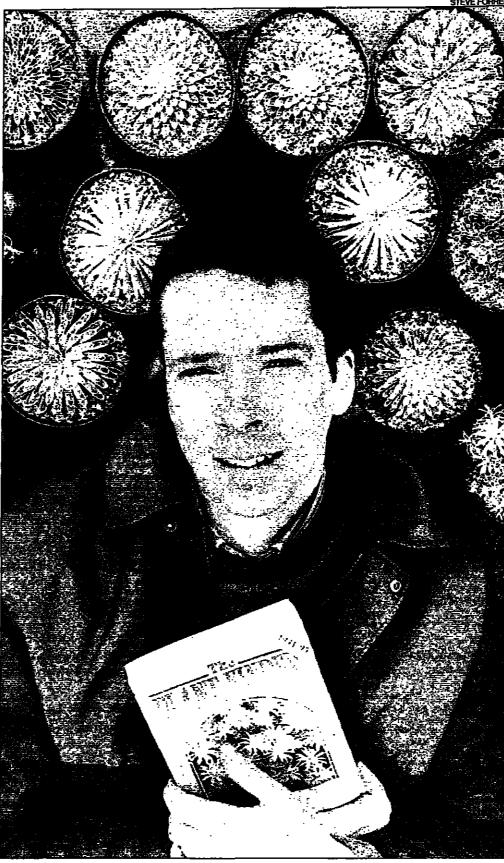
"Because we are a specialised nursery where people are looking for a particular plant, they tend to use The Plant Finder. Plants are listed alphabetically with nurseries that supply them and we often get calls from people just browsing,

Mr Mitchell says.
At present, The Plant Finder does not deal with fruit or vegetables, because of the variability from seed and the greater regional use of local names for fruit trees. Many seed companies sell the same range of seed strains under different names, to add to the confusion. But for those with a suitable computer, CD-Rom is available, the PPP Index, which contains The Plant Finder as well as The Fruit and Vegetable Finder, and an index of mainland European nurseries.

t is all a far cry from the early 1980s, when the nearest thing to The Plant Finder was a 'Hardy Plant Directory" on card index, run by Robin and Joan Grout, from their home in Rad-cliffe-on-Trent. Nottinghamshire, for the Hardy Plant Society, or Mr Lord's directory of nurseries within the National Trust.

I asked Mr Lord if he would know all those 75,000 plants if he saw them, and could he grow them? The answer was a resounding no to both questions. Which is a great relief. He is human then. But he does know which plants should be which and, vitally, where we can buy them. We gardeners should give this man a medal. In gratitude. ● The Plant Finder is available from

bookshops at £12.99. The CD-Rom PPP Index, £39.99, can be ordered on the Slack Top Alpines, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX77HA



Michael Mitchell of Slack Top Alpines. "We often get calls from people just browsing"

### **GARDEN** ANSWERS

I have an area four by 15 yards I have an accountes and snowdrops. An old pear stood there until the great storms. Is there anything I can do to maintain interest during the summer without weakening the aconites? - A. Roome, Boughton Monchelsea, Kent.

If you want to keep the aconites and small bulbs. I would do nothing to hasten the process of recolonisation by grass. But in the interim, why not plant dwarf narcissi and bluebells, late summerflowering Cyclamen hederifolium, and Crocus speciosus for the autumn, with a few groups of colchicums. For summer, hardy agapanthus or acanthus will give height and substance.

Separating a paved area at the back of my house from the garden is a new wall. The wall has two planting holes in the top, about the size of a two-litre ice-cream box. What could I grow in them? I would like something colourful and fragrant, such as ground-cover roses. - E. Winter, Carlisle.

A I take it they have drainage holes? I would treat them like hanging baskets - you might even make liners for them. Roses would not enjoy having their roots cooked and nor would many small shrubs but you could plant primroses and helianthemums for spring, and verbena and petunias for summer.

My brick garage keeps get-ting covered in ivy. I have cut through the main stems at ground level, but it comes back. How can I kill ivy for good? — F. Preston, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks.

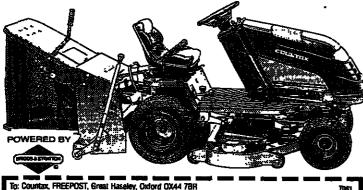
The only thing which slows ivy A down is reaching the top of a wall or tree, where it then makes shorter, flowering growth. If you cannot abide to see it do this, then you must dig out the root and all the stems on the ground nearby. It should not be necessary to use weedkillers, so long as you are able

STEPHEN ANDERTON Readers should write to: Garden

Answers, Weekend, The Times. I Pennington St, London E19XN. We regret that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that any enclosures cannot be returned.

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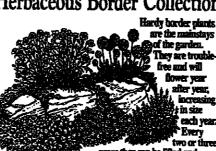
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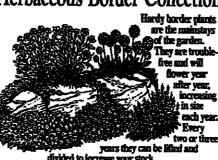
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A STORY

# Fabergé touch for your beds

Auricula's ravishing flowers are luring more enthusiasts, says Barbara Abbs

see nothing in it but what is innocent: and it . . . serves as a gracious relaxation for gentlemen of the study and the office," wrote a French enthusiast during the reign of Louis XIV about the growing of auriculas. and, judging by their increasing popularity, it is as true today.

Auriculas are highly bred mem-bers of the primula family and have umbels of flowers in ravishing colours, with contrasting centres and, frequently, white-dusted foliage. They were developed from a hybrid of *Primula auricula* and *P. hirsuta*, which grow in the Alps.

The loth-century Dutch gardening buff Clusius grew auriculas in Leiden, where they were known as Auricula ursi or "little bears" ears" because of their fleshy, pointed leaves. They found their way to northern France and Flanders and then to England. By the 18th

century they were established here. The attraction of auriculas is that exciting hybrids can be created, the plants are small, they need no heat in winter and vigorous ones soon produce "offsets" that can be swapped or given away.

For Adrian Orchard, growing auriculas is the perfect relaxation. A notary public, who commutes from the village of Southease in East Sussex to London, his working day is long and a spell outdoors each evening with his collection of plants relaxes him. His first glimpse of auriculas was on Geoffrey Smith's television programme World of Flowers some years ago.

and it was love at first sight. Today, in a cool part of his garden facing east, is a row of raised cold frames lined with a thick layer of gravel. Rows of "long toms" (tall clay pots particularly suitable for plants with a long. thick root) contain a wide range of

#### FACT FILE

The National Collection of Edged Auriculas will be shown at the Chelsea Flower Show, starting May 19, by Brenda Hyatt, of

Brenda riyan, or I Toddington Crescent, Bluebell Hill, Chatham, Kent MES 9QT (01634 863251), and other rare varieties by Cravens Nurseries, I Foulds Terrace. Bingley, West Yorkshire BDI6 4LZ (01274 561412).

Shows in the southern section of the National Auricula and Primula Society will be held at Datchet village on Saturday, April 5 and Saturday, April 26.

 Information: Adrian Orchard on 0171-208 2901, or Lawrence Wigley, 67 Warnham Court Road, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey SM53ND.

auriculas. Among them is a plant of the oldest surviving variety, the deep plum 'Argus' from 1869, and varieties of his own. There is also one with narrow cream stripes on black, named 'Southease'.

With micropropagation, good auriculas are now more widely available. Before this, unusual specimens were passed among fellow "florists" and the best forms rarely found their way into commerce. The elaborate composts described in early books barrowloads of goose dung soaked in buckets of bullock's blood and mixed with sugar-bakers' scum -have made auricula growing seem as esoteric as alchemy. Some enthusiasts still sieve manure and



but many others simply use a loambased compost with added grit and peat. Mr Orchard mixes two parts John Innes No 2 with half a part of grit and half a measure of peat. Auriculas are divided into sev-

eral groups: show auriculas, alpines and doubles. All classes have subdivisions, particularly show auriculas. In the 1740s cultivars with leaf-like green tissue instead of petals were produced. Where this edging is dusted with the farina or white meal that makes auriculas so distinctive, it appears grey. Where the farina is thick, the edge looks white. The finest flowers have a dense circle of farina, or paste, in the centre and a ground colour -

HOMES & GARDENS

feathers out into the white, grey or green edge. They are as if made from a precious stone by Faberge. Only border auriculas should be

grown out of doors in flower beds. They need moist but well-drained soil and a cool position. Buy plants from a specialist nursery or a show. Seeds from specialist suppliers are also available. Commercial seeds, often labelled as "Alpine auri-culas" can be disappointing, producing variable flowers.

There are fashions in auriculas as in much else. Double flowers are popular again and resemble small camellias or old roses in shades of cream, gold, umber, plum or violet. Striped flowers fell from favour

mix it with two-year-old leafmould, black is highly thought of — that in the 18th century, but one enthusiast of these, Allan Hawkes, a past president of the National Auricula and Primula Society, who lives in Rabley Heath, Hertfordshire, has been recreating them for 20 years with considerable success.

> he auricula year begins in February when the plants wake up. The beauty of many of the varieties is in the delicate white meal on leaves and flowers, and water can spoil it. Pots should be watered individually using a can with a narrow spout. Water heavily in spring during the flowering period and lightly in summer. Mr Orchard

uses a quarter-strength mix of

tomato fertiliser during the growing period to ensure fine flowers. After flowering, plants need re-potting. Opinions differ as to the relative merits of clay or plastic pots, layers of crocks at the bottom of the pot or the best time to repot. Even long tom pots are not considered essential by every expert. In fact, auriculas tolerate a wide range of cultivation methods. Repotting

in the south. When repotting, compost is gently removed from the roots, which are then washed and examined for disease or pests and replanted in fresh compost. Small shoots or offsets are removed and potted

times from May onwards are sug-gested, while August is a favourite

Thriving Primula auricula WEEKEND TIPS back to a framework of older wood, even though this means losing some early shoots.

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otash to established car

■ Stand flowered pots of narcissi or hyacinths in a light, cool place such as a cold frame to die down, or plant out in the garden.

separately to make additional plants. There is a burst of growth in early autumn and then the plants begin to die down, though they do

not disappear. The only things auriculas do not tolerate are waterlogging, drying out or over-heating. Alpine primulas are covered with snow all winter and can put their roots down further and further into cool crevices during summer. They cannot do this in pots.

With the right site for border auriculas or shady cold frames for show and alpine types, plus a little time to attend to their needs, more and more people are finding they can grow auriculas satisfactorily without recourse to alchemy.

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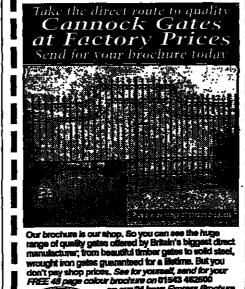
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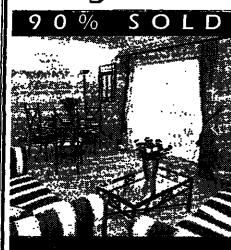
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# Postcard views from the edge

The village of Ballinskellig in County Kerry is changing fast. Along the potholed lanes, derelict fishermen's cottages sit next to renovated farms, rickety bars beside squires' retreats.

As we crawled up the drive, the view of the house, with its spikey roof and glassy add-ons, sank my Ballykissangel-induced preconceptions. The architecture is redolent of the new "Guinness-shire", where stone is mixed with chrome and potato chips give way to micro-chips. Boolakeel House is a hybrid of flashy rock-star pad, traditional working farmhouse and modern Scandinavian chaler.

The location makes up for any architectural indiscretions. It is a house on the edge. The wind blows down the chimneys and pogos on the slates, bringing with it the harshness of the rugged coastline and the warmth of the Gulf Stream. In the vast gardens, the elements provide ample tonic to revive you after a night in the local bar.

The original part of the house is 300-400 years old. The rest has evolved over the years, a project devised and completed by the current owner. This makes for an illogical layout. Cosy winter rooms with roaring peat fires adjoin-lighter spaces with picture win-dows. In the winter dining room and morning room, the original timbers and heavy stone lull you to sleep, promising dreams of tinkers and little folk. In the kitchen, modern handmade fittings sit next to an antique butcher's block.

At the front of the house in the reception-area-cum-sitting-room there is a hearty inglenook fireplace, perfect for roasting chestnuts, although it sits uncomfortably in a room with light wood floors and stairs. A carved bar in the corner with comfy swivel stools creates the ambience of an American theme bar.

Off the hall, a fine study with intricately carved bookshelves, a pretty slate fireplace and coastline



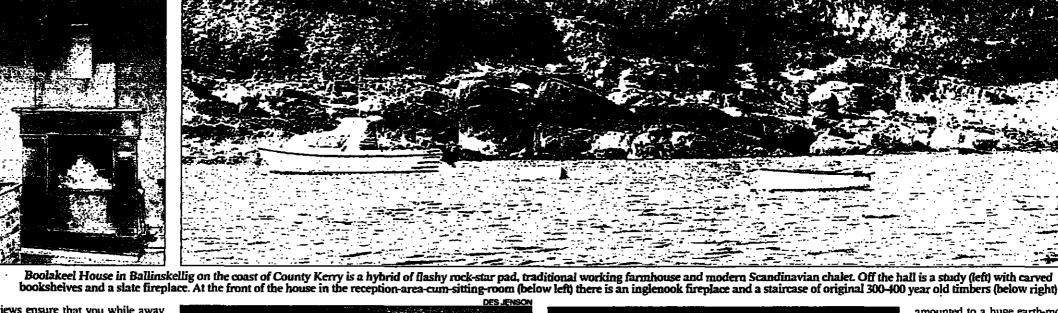
views ensure that you while away the day. At the back of the house, the summer dining room is light with the warmth and trappings of a botanical hot-house, with glass roof, understocked aquarium and

jungle of plants.

taring down from over the glass-topped dining table is a mural, commissioned more than ten years ago, depicting the current owner and local characters, stroking dogs and smoking flavoured tobacco. It is not a masterpiece of stroke-work, but after a night at Boolakeel I grew to like it, confident that it depicts the owner's famous hospitality.

There are six bedrooms upstairs. The master bedroom, with its own dressing room, is bright and airy with the clean sheen of a Habitat catalogue. The en suite bathroom is a vision in peach marble with steps up to a large sunken bath and views out to sea.

A narrow staircase leads you from the first floor to the confines of a glass lookout. Small, square and



perfectly positioned, it is a place to paint, birdwatch and check up on your neighbours. It is so quiet it is difficult to remember that before the potato famine Ballinskellig was a village bursting at the seams. This was much to the distress of the

local monks, who fled to the nearby Skellig Islands to escape the idle chitter-chat of mainland gossip-

The 100 acres of cultivated gardens surrounding Boolakeel are a tribute to the current owner's

HOUSE OF THE WEEK Asking price: £1.2 million ■ Shopping: Fresh sea-food<sub>j</sub> lobsters, sea bass, salmon; Cork for city fancies village art shop for arts and crafts ● Entertainment: Salmon fishing, birdwatching, boating in the bay, swimming off the beach, shooting in season, drinking, recovering Travel: Regular flights to Cork and Shannon.The train service was uprailed in the 1950s, so a car is a necessity unless you live labours are to be found in the

ambition. He and his wife have expansive vegetable gardens.

Closer to the house, pines and planted more than half a million plants and shrubs since they moved spruces provide a wind-break around the ten acres of tropical here 25 years ago. She is a worldclass potato expert, who is writing a definitive spud anthology. Many varieties of the starchy fruits of her gardens which boast many species of exotica. In what must have

hydrangeas.

The hidden treasure of Boolakeel is the private beach below the rocky edge. Imagine novelty smugglers,

stripy T-shirts and well-stocked treasure chests. This is Enid Blyton country: "The Adventures of Boolakeel Bay". There are enough nooks and crannies, hidden caves, banshee-like sound-effects and skinny dipping possibilities to keep George, Timmy et al busy for the

operation, large ponds have been

ingeniously created between beds

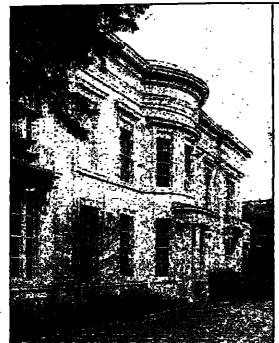
of shrubs, lines of trees and walls of

In the summer this is the obvious place to entertain. Set up a barbeque and serve up sandflecked lobster and seabass kebabs. Stomp over the sand, make lifechanging decisions, then watch them dissolve into a tall glass of Murphy's down the road at Patsy's

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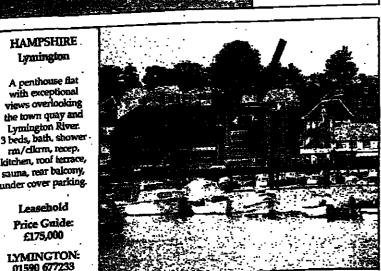
THE SHRUBBERY, Lavender Gardens, SW11

Close to Claphau sted building of sixteen period detail.

edmons, bathroom large reception room. kitchen, designated parking space.

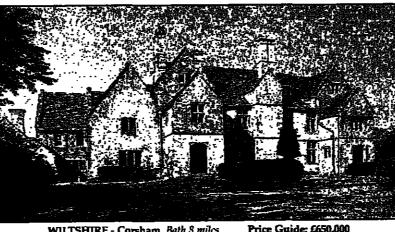
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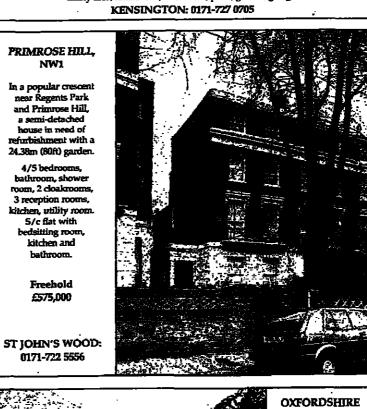
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Asthall Leigh

sitting rm/bed 5 and bathrm. Dble garage, barns, gardens Price Guide: £295,000

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# Three fantasies of a manor reborn

After John Gummer's call for new country houses, we asked three architects to design a dream manor

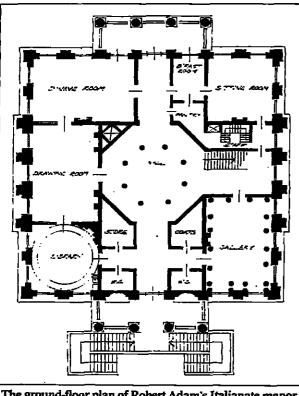
The Environment Secretary's decision to encourage a new generation of stately homes to "enhance" our countryside came as a welcome surprise to the country's growing number of millionaires. John Gummer intends to relax planning rules which have made it almost impossible to get local authority planning permission for new country houses.

"An isolated new house in the countryside may exceptionally be justified if it is clearly of the highest quality," Mr Gummer says in new planning guidance to local authority planners, published on February 19.

It will be up to local councillors to decide whether to grant planning permission for the mansions, which would have to be of "truly outstanding" design. But Mr Gummer is making sure there will be no blots on the landscape: he will have the final say.

The Times asked three architects what they could offer, given a free hand to design a new stately home. The place we suggested for our fantasy is the 1,400-acre Estcourt Park estate, near Tetbury, Gloucestershire, which has a drive of sweet chestnuts that leads nowhere, the handsome Cotswold mansion it once served having gone. But there is outline planning permission for a new manor on the old site. Our architects came up with three quite different manor houses.

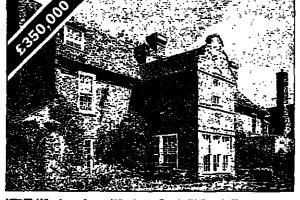
CHRISTINE WEBB



The ground-floor plan of Robert Adam's Italianate manor



**VILLAGE HOUSES** 



KENT: Wingham Court, Wingham. Grade II\* listed village house in a 1.7 acre walled garden with a range of period outbuildings. Six bedrooms, three bathrooms (two en-suite), four reception rooms, study, kitchen, domestic offices and two cellars. Self-contained one-bedroom annexe. About £350,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01227 451123).



GLOUCESTERSHIRE: Holly Cottage, Rectory Lane, Bourton-on-the-Hill, near Moreton-in-the-Marsh. Grade II listed 17th-century detached village cottage in a pretty garden. Four bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room, dining room, kitchen/breakter room with Aga, utility room and cloakroom. Stone barn/garaging. About £248,000 (Hamptons, 01386 852205).



HEREFORDSHIRE: Hawkesbury, Kimbolton, Leominster. Refurbished 18th-century house in a third-of-an-acre garden, on the edge of a village. Four bedrooms, dressing room, two bathrooms, three reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room and cloakroom. Outbuildings and garage. About £190,000

(Knight Frank, 01432 273087).

CHERYL TAYLOR



Inside, the huge, roof-high baronial hall has a gallery

#### ROMANTIC MEDIEVAL

THE ARCHITECT Border Oak, of Hereford, is best known for its romantic oakframed houses using medieval construction techniques. So John Greene, its managing director, says his fantasy "embodies all that's good about an English manor house.

In our fantasy building we'll demonstrate that oak can be used for fine structures. After all, oak is the only building material that hardens and improves with age: everything else deteriorates from the day you use it.

"Only best English oak will be used, so we'll need about 95 trees, which will be cut from the estate - replanting twice as many. The smaller branches would make wattleand-daub panels. Clay from the estate would be fired to make bricks, and the hole left by the clay workings would be filled with water to form a

lake. Windows would be double-glazed, with hand-made glass set in leaded panes, so that the windows will sparkle like a many-faceted diamond. Windows are like the eyes of a building: they're what gives a house its soul.

"It will be an honest house, more like the village squire than the landed gentry.

Mr Green described the baronial hall which goes up to the roof, with a gallery and aninglenook fireplace. The library is panelled, and there's a billiards room and a trophy

room, a wine cellar and a den. The cloister, off the west wing, leads to a folly, where you can open a door to a spiral staircase concealed in the central core. This takes you to the top of a hexagonal folly, and there you can compose sonnets or love stories while

The glass-faced cupola forms the roof of a double-height central hall, allowing in light

#### CLASSICAL

ROBERT ADAM specialises in the classical style favoured by designers of grand houses in the Cotswolds. Because he has worked on projects for the Prince of Wales, whose Highgrove House estate borders Estcourt Park, he seemed a particularly apt choice to carry out our brief.

Of our three fantasies, his is the most likely to coincide with the wishes of Cotswold planners, who usually expect designs to fit in with the local character of the area. Yet, while his design might look conventional, there is more to it than meets the eye.

The building has a central, glass-faced rotunda which forms the roof of a doubleheight central hall, allowing light through to the heart of the building

The fun thing about it is that you're taking the type of design that was built by Palladio, an Italianate building type, and giving it a Greek twist," says Mr Adam, of Upper High Street, Winchester. Hampshire. "It shows how flexible the classical vocabulary can be. For example, the Greeks didn't use arches but I've used them on the

windows and it somehow makes the building look more friendly. There are urns in wall niches, which are very Greek, and the cupola on the rotunda is Greek-inspired as

"At 4,000 square feet, the house is very usable and pleasant. One corner has a sitting room, breakfast room and pantry, with a dumb waiter to the kitchens. Above that is a bedroom suite that opens on to the balcony.

'Access to nearly all the rooms is off the central hall, so there are no corridors, and each room has a view of the landscape. There is a basement for the kitchens, and a separate garaging and staff living quarters.

"The whole building can be scaled up or down in size, because it is square, and a principle of classical design is that it is based on proportions relative to each other.

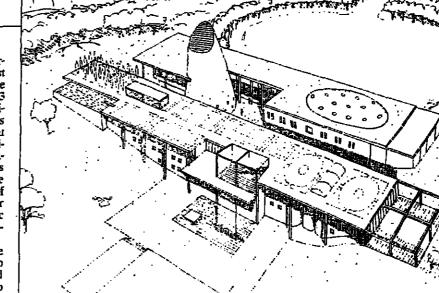
Small buildings can be given scale by introducing full-height columns. This building is 40ft high. The principal rooms have 15ft-high ceilings, but if the building was two-thirds this size it

THE PARTNERSHIP Baker-Brown McKay of Lewes, East Sussex, won the House of the Future competition in 1993 organised by the Royal Institution of British Architects. Its winning design was built at the 1994 Future World Exhibition at Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. The partners now lecture on sustainable design at the University of Brighton, Sussex, so their imaginative house is futuristic and gives environmental con-

siderations priority. Whoever owns this house will be wealthy enough to have a collection of art and antiquities, and will open up the galleries to the public. Duncan Baker-Brown says. 'Landscape will be important

to this person, who will plant the whole area with native trees to recreate the landscape as it used to be, though there would be a clearing for the house, which would be set in a natural dip.

The northern, copper walls of the new manor will stretch like a curtain between the grass banks. Once inside you can pass through various layers dedicated to culture, nature, fun and recreation. including a virtual reality area where people 'travel the world' until you finally arrive



This house has green technology and processes its own electricity, sewage and water

### **FUTURISTIC**

in the private hub of the house, away from prying eyes.

To one side of the kitchen

are gardens supplying yearround organic produce. The main, formal gardens are on the roof of the house.

Although the building is 14,000 square feet, it has the latest green technology and is a zero energy house — it will not be connected to mains

electricity, because it creates its own power using photovoltaic panels; it processes its own sewage and collects and

processes its own water. The dining room has a glass skylight to provide natural light, and there is a winter garden on the roof for yearround relaxation, plus a swimming pool.

Because it is such a long

DENZIL MONEELANCE

building it needs ventilation, which is provided naturally by the tower, which has a glass roof and acts as a solar chimney, drawing air out.

"Gardens demonstrate the ideas behind permaculture and forest gardening.

Like a traditional country house, there are entertaining areas - we're not turning our backs on the fact that a country house is for inviting people to house parties, and for impressing people."

# Pine lovers' strip show

Cheryl Taylor on how to sand and

varnish a pine floor the easy way

ne of the least expensive ways to transform an ordinary looking room is to expose a bit of wood. f you have pine lurking hidden under a shag-pile car-

pet try uncovering it.
A quick burst of stripping and dipping will not only turn heads but also add value to your home. If you think it may have been listening to diehard pine enthusiasts who maintain there is no substitute for hand-stripping.
Those of us with better

things to do simply nip down to the nearest tool hire shop for floor-sanding equipment. Armed with this formidable mechanical power, and a tin of 'antique pine" coloured varnish, we can achieve a similar "real beauty" effect in a matter of hours.

Although this is the lazy way, operating a sanding machine does require some strength. The floor sander. which looks like a cross between a lawn mower and a vacuum cleaner, has a tendency to run away with you. An electricity circuit breaker should be used in case you run over the cable. Stout shoes are

essential. because sanding your bare feet will do more than polish your toenails.

Before starting on a floor, make sure that all the nail or screw heads are hammered below the surface of the wood. otherwise you will end up learing the sanding sheets.

Floorboards are sanded first with a coarse sanding sheet. and then with finer sheets until the required finish is obtained. A small, hand-held edging machine is then used to sand up to the skirting boards. A hit of elbow grease and conventional sandpaper are needed to get into the corners.

should be dust-free and clean Many tool hire shops provide a package, comprising a floor sander and edger for about £30 to £40 for 24 hours long enough to sand the average room. The charge for an additional day's hire is about £10 to £15. In addition, you will have to buy sanding

Finally, the floor surface

for an average room. Widely spaced floorboards pose a few problems - unless you don't mind the wind howling through the gaps. You could always throw a rug

sheets, which cost about £20



over them on chilly days, or buy some filler to stop the gaps. Most DIY stores sell tubs of plastic wood, neutral or pine-tinted, costing about Enfor a quarter of a litre, which can be pushed into the spaces between the stripped boards using a flexible knife.

If the gaps are extensive, it is likely to be a long, messy job and an expensive one. The end result may not be satisfactory floorhoards move as you

walk on them and the filler may fall out. The best solution is to lift the

floorboards and move them closer together, adding an extra board to fill in the space left at the edge. Pine-stripping by dipping.

which can transform internal doors, cupboards, tables and chests, is inexpensive but a job best left to the specialists. Filling your both with caustic soda is not recommended,

especially when it costs as linle as £12 to £15 to have a standard door dipped professionally.

Pine enthusiasts, of course, will complete the job and strip the door frames by hand Those of us who have tried this, scraping away night after night using industrial amounts of paint stripper. prefer to leave the frames exactly as they are, You can, after all, have too much of a

### PROPERTY **NEWS**

■ HOUSE prices are 8.5 per cent higher than this time last year, according to Nationwide. Amanda Loose writes. Rises have been fuelled by a lack of supply, with an increase of only 0.7 per cent last month. Nationwide reports that the average cost of a house is now E55.621 — £4.365 more than in February 1996.

Marinade on

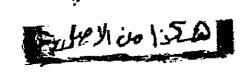
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■ WETHERBY Studio in Wetherby Place. South Ken-sington, London is for sale for £350,000. It has been home to actor Christopher Reeve and Tony Hicks, a former member of the Kinks. The unmodernised studio includes 20 sq ft of space with a vaulted ceiling and gallery. kitchen, hedroom and bathroom. Contact Douglas & Gordon, 0171-225 1225.

■ ARABLE land prices in the eastern counties of Britain from Lincolnshire to Essex rose by 20 per cent last year, reports Strutt & Parker, The average price of land available with vacant possession rose to £2,675 per acre, with demand expected to remain high.

DEMAND continues to outstrip supply in the prime central London market, says the agent Aylesford, with many of last year's successful sellers finding themselves homeless as they compete with the increasing number of international buyers. Properties priced about £600,000 this time last year are now going for about El million and Aylesford fears it will have little to offer the annual influx of wealthy overseas buyers



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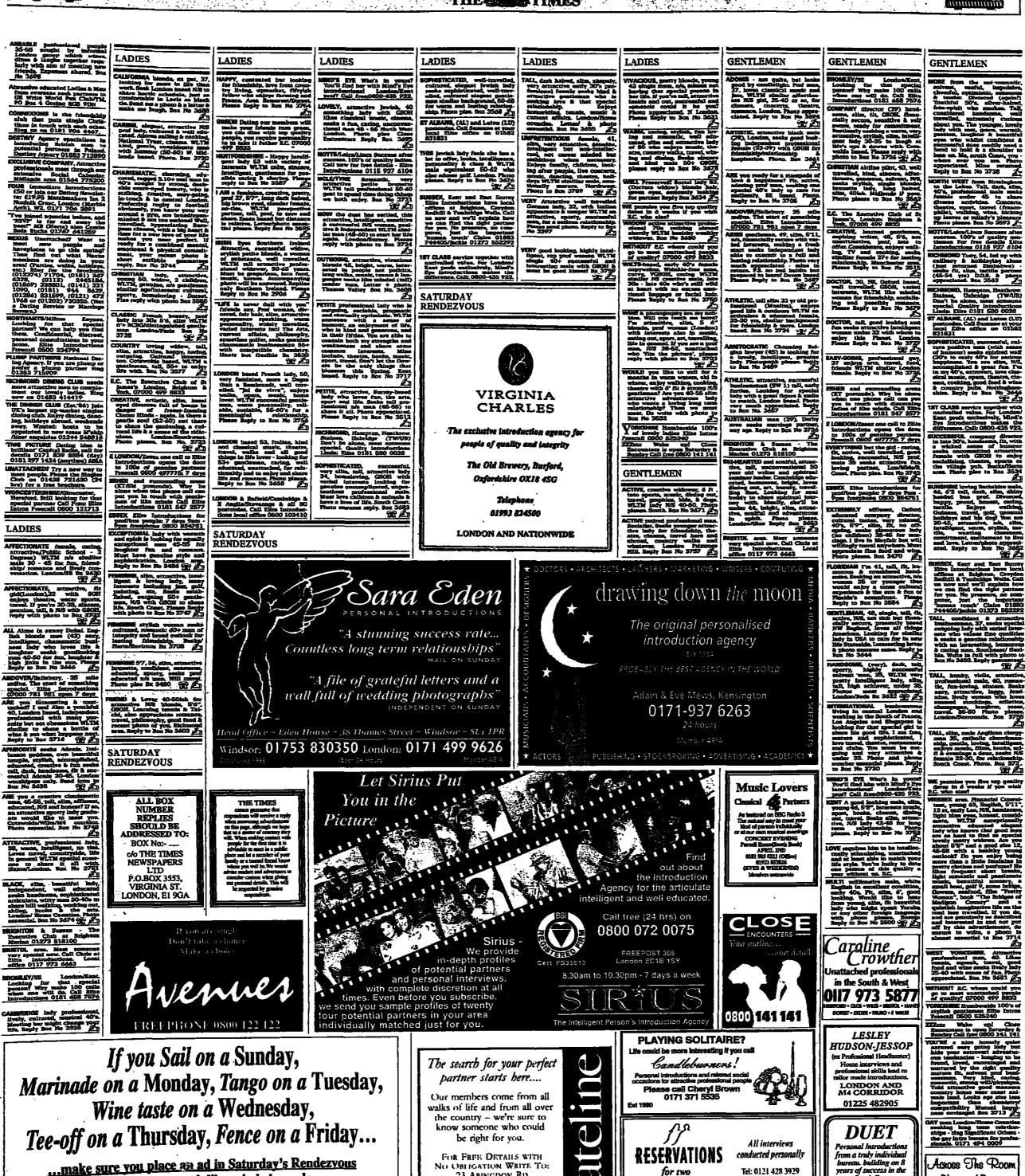
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# Comic relief meets nouveau cuisine

That Japanese of all ages are hooked on comics has not escaped the notice - and the sneers - of some Westerners who would not be seen dead carrying something so vulgar. But even visitors forewarned about the national manga (comic books) mania can be startled by the sight of grown men in trains poring over comic strips that drip with bondage, rape and mutilation.

Yet there is a lot more to manga than sex and violence. New genres of comics are emerging constantly, reflecting the new trends and preoccupations of Japanese society. There is, for example, an increasingly popular variety called the "cuisine comic", featuring chefs and gour-mets as the unlikely heroes. Their goal in life is the pursuit of the ultimate in food and cooking, and this obsession lands them in some weird and wonderful adventures.

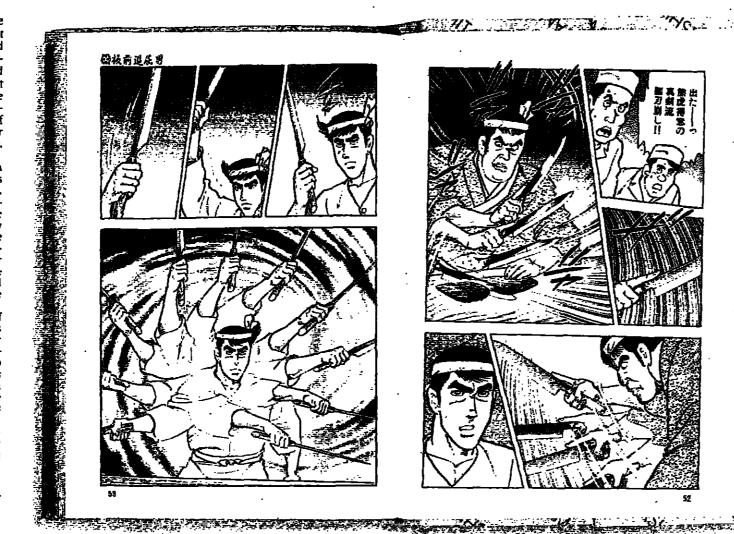
Japanese comics are in a class of their own. No other country has anything to match their sheer diversity, skilful artwork and mountainous sales. The Japanese soak up 1.2 billion comic books (many as thick as telephone directories) each year - about 30 per cent of the nation's total output of magazines and books.

More than 1.000 titles (the majority appear monthly or weekly) cover every imaginable subject, with many speciality comics devoted solely to dramas centring on golf, child-rearing and, most recently, oldies in retirement — a reflection of Japan's rapidly ageing society.

Manga are devoured by Japanese of all age and social groups. Take one of those packed commuter trains. One passenger, with grey sideboards, perhaps on his way to work in a bank or government ministry, is immersed in sex-packed

Sitting alongside him is a spotty teenager in black school uniform lapping up the adventures of baseball heroes and ingenious schoolboys in Weekly Shonen Jump, the bestselling comic magazine with a five million circulation ("read by boys from 16 to 60", according to the publishers). A slender young woman squashed in the corner by the door is reading the popular twice-monthly comic magazine You. a bizarre mix of domestic dramas and sex stories all written by

"It's impossible to understand modern Japanese society properly without studying manga," says





Here's one I prepared earlier: cuisine comics have been cashing in on a gourmet boom in Japan with heroes like samurai swordsmen

Minobu Shiozawa, a writer and commentator. They mirror society and the way it changes."

The mainstays of comics for women, for example, have traditionally been European aristocrats, sportswomen, homosexual boys and bisexual princes: all non-threatening species. The curiously titled Liberal White, for example, is full of stories about effeminate male doctors' love affairs. But recent years have seen a boom in women's comics about the struggle to carve out a career in a male-dominated world. Stories about how women professionals outwit their male rivals in the office are highly popular, and this mirrors the trend of modern Japanese women to forsake the kitchen sink for a career.

Frederick Schodt, author of The

Comics, maintains that manga perform a useful social function "They provide a brilliant fantasy release in a crowded, tightly controlled society," he says. "Immersed in a comic book, the average sala-ried worker is allowed a brief escape from everyday life where a man is no more than a cog in a vast, well-oiled mach-

World of Japanese

ine." However, the great unknown is how readers, and especially teenagers, are influenced by the barrage of pornography. After all, some magazines specialise in stories about women being tied up and tortured, and scenes of rape even

creep into many general interest comics. The comic Japan has one of the lowest levels of violent books crime among industrialised nations, but it

mirror is widely acknowledged that the low rape figour society ures mask a vast number of cases that go and the way unreported. Tokyo's crowded trains are noit changes' torious for the huge number of incidents of chikan - the brazen molesting of women - which is the

> popular comic books. It is a relief to report that millions of men are turning to "cuisine comics" for less gory entertainment. Japanese men who have never

sort of abuse glorified in many

buttered a slice of bread are among the most ardent fans. The two biggest stars of this genre are Shota. the sushi-master in the comic series Shota's Sushi, and trainee chef Ryosuke Kure, the protagonist of Wanderer With a Kitchen Knife. These cooks are no cissies. They are ruthless in their desire to produce state-of-the-art fried carp or a spring roll of heavenly succulence. They wield their fearsome sashimi knives with the deadly precision of samurai swordsmen, but fortunately only to

can see through them. Japanese are fond of such manga which blend fantasy with reality, entertainment with education. One such is Oishimbo (The Gourmet). which sells up to two million copies.

eviscerate a sea-bream or cut a

puffer fish into slices so thin that you

Shiro Yamaoka, the central figure, is a "food journalist" whose life's work is to track down the ultimate epicurean sensation. Each issue delights the reader with new, delectable and sometimes nauseous creations such as a vividly drawn

recipe comic on cooking brains fried in lemon butter sauce. The half-dozen food comics are cashing in on the "gourmet boom" which has spawned restaurants offering everything from Ethiopian to Tibetan food. They also reflect a revival of pride in Japan's own cuisine, which may be increasingly popular in Britain and America, but is scorned by many younger Japa-nese in favour of McDonald's and Pizza Hut. However, there is no evidence as yet that men are emulating the heroic chefs and gourmets by venturing into the kitchen, regarded strictly as the bailiwick of the woman in Japan.

boil water for pot noodles when I get home because I'm too tired to do anything else." says Jiro Ikehashi, a 25-yearold laboratory assistant who is still single. "Of course I'd like to make one of Shiro's fantastic meals, but I always get back late and would never have the time."

Achieving the sublime meal is perhaps the least important element of these exploits. The common thread is the religious dedication with which the protagonists pursue their goal.

The Japanese love affair with manga is not all that difficult to understand. Comic artists are in a class of their own, creating cinematic effects like zoom shots, varying camera angles and fade-ins. One peculiarity of the artwork is the size of the characters' eyes. Illustrators have discovered that big round eyes like those of Westerners have the greatest appeal to Japanese comic book fans. The frames even come with a "sound track" of special words representing sounds: such as "zuruzuru" for noodles being slurped, and "shashha" for swishing knives. Comic books have also enriched the language with the sound of silence — "shiin".

Even people of highbrow tastes. who openly dismiss comic books as infantile, often get hooked when they start flicking through the pages - as an elderly professor teaching at Tokyo's prestigious Waseda University sheepishly confided to me.

ROBERT WHYMANT

We have just acquired a We have just acquired a beagle called Thumper from a rescue home. He's settled down very well and is fairly obedient, but pulls very hard on the lead. Would a choke collar heip, or would a harness be better?

Beagles are not the

A brightest of dogs and Thumper might be very old before he starts to realise he is strangling himself by pulling while on a choke collar and he could damage his throat in the process. A harness would help Thumper to pull more efficiently. Try a Halti, which is a dog-adapted version of the halter used for horses and cattle for hundreds of years. The lead is attached to the Halti beneath the dog's chin, so every time he pulls, his head has to turn to one side. And he can't pull if his neck is bent. Many pet shops stock them or phone the Company of Animals on 01932 566696.

Our one-year-old West Highland White terrier has been lame in her right back leg for two months. The vet diagnosed Perthe's disease. What is this and what is the cause and prospects?

Perthe's disease as abnormality of the hip. Something unknown inter-Perthe's disease is an feres with the blood supply to the head of the femur. It becomes malformed and misshapen. The hip doesn't work properly, arthritis develops, and the dog is lame. There seems to be an inherited predisposition to this problem. Only the smaller breeds of dogs are affected. Surgical removal of the femoral head is the usual long-term remedy. In the majority of cases this stops the pain and within a few weeks the dog can gallop about without any difficulty. although he may not win a 100-yard sprint.

My friend has two bud-My triend has the gerigars and one of She them perches on one leg. She says the vet had diagnosed gout. Was he serious? Do birds get gout?

A Yes, usually in the toe joints. White parches, which are deposits of urate crystals, can be seen on the bottom of the foot. It's a painful condition and treatment isn't very effective. The bird can be made more comfortable by putting a small piece of turf on the floor of the cage so he can rest his bad foot on a soft surface.

JAMES ALLCOCK • Readers should write to: The Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington St. London El 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.

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Hazel Anscombe with Trixie who has an infection

# No more help for Humphrey? There were 17 people with

Blue Cross, the charity that treats thousands of pets annually, taces a cash crisis in its centenary year

. room when I arrived at the Blue Cross Animal Care charity one Thursday morning recently. The notice that nine vets, the centre behind greeted us said: "Please do not ask us where you are in the for the pets of those too poor to queue. It will not get you seen any quicker and it slows us down. We are very busy. Please be patient."

Later this month, on March 19. the Queen will visit the centre as its centenary patron. The charity needs to raise £2.7 million in its centenary year or face closure, something that has never happened, not even during the blitz.

The charity was founded in 1897 as Our Dumb Friends' League and made an early impact as a radical campaigning charity fighting for better conditions for working horses. In 1898 it began campaigning against crabs and lobsters being boiled alive and it was also very active during the First World War saving horses injured on the battlefields. Today, with a staff of about

50, including 30 nurses and

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White Willow) has a ver

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afford a vet's fees (they are asked to make a donation), and campaigns to improve conditions for animals in transit for slaughter. In 1992 it became the first animal charity to employ an animal behaviourist to help owners of problem pets.

Victoria Station provides care

There have been famous visitors to the hospital. Humphrey, the Downing Street cat, wandered in unrecognised. and was treated like any other stray. He was well on his way to being found a loving home before somebody recognised him as Westminster's top cat and returned him.

Buster, Roy Hattersley's Staffordshire bull terrier, proved one of the more difficult customers on animal behaviourist Steve Collis's private client list. At the start of his treatment, he slipped his

over £90?

Call DBI now

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leash while Mr Hattersley waswalking him and dispatched a Canada goose in St James's Park. Mr Collis is persevering with Buster.

The charity is situated in Westminster and its cash crisis is apparent in the condition of the building. Paint flakes from the walls. Missing ceiling tiles expose decrepit wiring and bits of ceiling flutter down into the operating theatre. Masonry above the almoner's office crumbles to the pavement and the sparsely-stocked library is used as overflow accommodation for pets.

There are days when the centre is so busy you have to skirt around animals recovering in the corridors because there is no space anywhere else. And sometimes animals needing non-intrusive surgery have to be hundled from the operating table on to the floor to make way for the next case. Anabel Wilson, the charity's

full-time fundraiser, gave me the guided tour of everything the Queen will see. It is not for the squeamish and it helps if you are a hardened fan of the surgeons in M\*A\*S\*H.

th the operating theatre so cramped, the surgeon barely had room to turn around. Ms Wilson said: "Like everywhere else here we don't have enough space. It's quiet today, but sometimes we can have one animal being operated on, another recovering from anaesthetic on the only other table in the room and another making do with the floor. The staff are too busy to notice how had things are."

Room has been made for an emergency overflow operating theatre by using the boardroom. "The board now meets in the depths of an outbuilding underneath our offices." Laboratory manager Stuart

Cross has been using since the hospital was last refurbished more than 30 years ago - and much of this was bought second hand from NHS hospitals. "Some of it is practically unserviceable," he said. "Parts aren't available anymore. If it breaks down - that's it. That tissue machine there is 33 years old and on its last legs. It is a vital part of the process of analysing bioosies to discover if they are malignant. We need a new one but it will cost about £6,000."

Ms Wilson said: "For years. everybody has been working against time, overcoming daunting conditions and worn-out equipment. Now time is running out. There's going to be no attempt to tart things up for the Queen. She is aware of our situation and that's what she wants to see."

JACK CROSSLEY

 You can send a donation to the Blue Cross Animal Charity at: Room SOSC'. Shilton Road Burford, Oxfordshire OXIS 4PF.

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# 'It's not that I long to fall into the embrace of an all-knowing deity: a giant Daddy figure in the sky. But I do envy the serenity of believers'

is name was Bear. In the clinical, brightly lit setting of the art gallery, he looked incongruous and slightly scary. He was not an Aborigine or black or even Australian, although he affected to be all three. His face was painted to resemble a landscape of inky planes with boundary lines of white does. His hair was clotted with white clay. Whatever else he could not be or do - dig up a witchetty grub, lay claim to the secrets of of Dreamtime - Bear knew how to play his didgeridoo,

He was sitting barefoot and crosslegged, gazing up at one of the Aboriginal paintings on the gallery wall and playing his amazing instrument. From deep in his wooden tube, Bear was able to summon the sounds of kookaburras, dingos and kangaroos hopping through the bush. Sometimes the creatures resisted him, "I wasn't concentrating hard enough," he explained. "I didn't visualise it properly."

Our younger son thought Bear was the business. Our older son was transfixed. In fact, all the children who had been dragged around by their parents to see

It all started with a didgeridoo this boring old art stuff on a Saturday afternoon found Bear and his cherrywood tubes - hollowed out by termites

as the children of Hamelin found the Most of the adults were as dumbstruck as the children. My husband volunteered himself for an impromptu "healing session". I could feel my toes curling with embarrassment as the crowd gathered to witness the spectacle of one grown man, lying on the floor, being tickled by another grown man with a big stick. My husband emerged from the experience with a beatific smile on his face, and I tried not to pretend that I didn't know

in Australia's red heart -- as compelling

Cynicism is only part of my problem. Like a puritun with a decadent streak, I scoff at the very thing that attracts me. I am both drawn and repelled by any open

er half-hearted Angliconism of my upbringing has long since lapsed, and placed it. A colleague of mine and I used to bemoan our Godless state. We still phone

each other from time

to time and inquire

after our "spiritual

desert". It's not that I really feel that life is arid or that I long to fall into the embrace of an all-seeing, all-knowing deity: a giant Daddy figure in the sky. But I do

envy the serenity and certainty of true In my circle, only one couple has any kind of spiritual life — a form of Japanese

LIFE AND SOUL



they have been following for almost 20 years. I know no Bible readers and the children into the church primary school. (Although

one or two of them have said how much they now look forward to that casis of calm in a hectic life.) Conventional Christianity — as a deeply held faith — seems

so rare today that it is almost exotic. Even politicians - hardly the least cynical of people -- seem to have turned their backs on old-style religion in favour of spiritual mentors: the Clintons have Deepak

Australian teacher-priest. Peter

In recent decades there have been so many false gods and gurus — from Bhagwan Rajneesh to Werner Erhard to last year's fallen messiah, the raver Reverend Chris Brain — all competing to win the souls and salaries of people who are desperate to believe in something, as long as it comes in an unorthodox

Est, Exegesis, Insight... there was a time in the mid-Seventies when you couldn't go to a party without meeting someone who had forked out 200 quid for a weekend of self-discovery. Instant Enlightenment - as one exposé documentary called it - plus VAT.

I remember one party (and I only twigged half-way through) which was thrown by Est initiates to work on their friends to join the organisation. Several

of our hosts - all attractive, confident young men and women - had Firsts from Oxford. But then brains and privilege do not eradicate the need for belief — however bogus or misguided a form it takes.

Music or landscape can fill me with a ense of awe which is akin, I am sure, to other people's spiritual bliss. The closest I have felt to this state was in an empty creek near Alice Springs. The red. humming earth and the blaze of blue sky. preternaturally vivid, filled the senses: at a deeper level, it was like being pierced by an ancient, mysterious energy.

So when Bear played his didgeridoo, I was reminded for a brief moment of that sensation of beauty and other-worldiness, before my shutters came down. In the car home, I muttered about Bear - "Bear", for goodness sake - andall his nonsense about having to "visualise" his animals in order to bring them to life.

"Mum," my oldest son said, in slightly pitying tones, "that's just because you're a typical grown-up, and grown-ups have forgotten how to have fun."

# What will my parents say?

Breaking the news of your sexuality to your parents can

have devastating consequences, says Judy Goodkin

efore Sally Jones spoke the words guaranteed to sink the stoutest parental heart - "Sit down mum and dad, there's something I've got to tell you . . . - she went up to her bedroom and decided which of her belongings she would take with her when they kicked her out.

She knew the stakes were high yet, at 19, after several years spent covering her tracks. Sally felt unable to continue concealing the fact that she did not share the same sexual identity as her parents.
"I have always been very close to my mum and dad, that's why I didn't want there to be any no-go areas between us. But my friends warned me: Expect the worst; you might lose them."

The news that the child you raised in your own image, the embodiment of your hopes and dreams, aligns themself with an alternative sexuality can feel like a catastrophe. Don't tell your father, it will kill him" is a typical response ing to the revelation as they would to a death, the threat of rejection is real. But when a child does not fulfil the expectations you have set for them, do you revise those expectations or drop the child?

Last year the London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard received 4,500 "coming out" calls from young gay people seeking advice on the right way to break the news to their families; only a minority of cases will have gone on to achieve an unequivocally posi-

Take Gaby Rolf, now 34. who informed her father at 17 that she was likely to appear on the Nine O'clock News following her noisy arrest at a gay demonstration outside Downing Street earlier that day. His first question was: What were you doing with all those sick people?" When she replied that she was one, he told her to get out and not bother coming back.

With her parents divorced and her mother an alcoholic, Gaby had nowhere to run. "I was desperate, confused, completely isolated. I didn't know any other gay people and there

were fewer networks then than there are today, so I just kept thinking I don't fit in, I'm not how I'm supposed to be. I seriously considered suicide on more than one occasion. But I had a fantasy that if one day I had enough money I would buy a row of houses where young gay people could live together safely." Gaby, now a social worker, doubts that she will ever see her father

again. Emma Healey, author of

When I finally said 'Mum, I'm a lesbian' all she could reply was We've grown three pounds of tomatoes'

Lesbian Sex Wars, is a former employee of the Albert Kenne-Trust, a lesbian and gay charity set up to support young people at risk of being made homeless because they are gay, while working towards family reconciliation wherever possible. She believes that young gay people often mistakenly believe that telling their parents will be

"Programmes like *East*-Enders make coming out look incredibly easy — it isn't. I was politically active lesbian involved in the campaign against Section 28 and I still hadn't come out to my parents. But it's wrong to imagine that living in the closet is comfortable. The truth is that it feels pretty awful having a whole side of your life that you can't share. You should be able to talk to your family about falling in love."

Elation drove Rachel Armstrong to rush in unprepared and break the news to her father. "After a difficult and confusing adolescence, I was 17 and having a really good time. It felt as though I had

side of myself. I was so pleased that I even gave a teen magazine an interview all about being a newly out young lesbian. That gave me the prompt I needed to able to say 'Dad, in case you're thinking of buying a copy of Just Seventeen, don't be shocked when you find me in it."

Now 22, she still laughs at her father's reaction. finds women beautiful, so he understood. Besides, he admitted that it would be terribly boring for all his children to turn out straight."

Her mother took it less well. When I finally said Mum, I'm a lesbian all she could reply was We've grown three pounds of tomatoes and I've just weighed the marrows and we've got such large ones this year'. She still avoids the subject, but then I don't know whether I would talk to her about boyfriends either if I had them." Rachel's stepmother Tara -

whose views are shared by Rachel's father - believes ineir overmoine concern was for her happiness. "Goodness knows there are enough heterosexual relationships that are destructive, abusive and cruel. When she brought her lovers down to meet us we saw that she was flowering, and that's what matters most.

er father absolutely adores women and was so glad when he thought that no hairy, smelly man would be getting his paws all over his lovely Rachel. We admire her for showing us that she had the courage of her convictions. After all, she was not to know which way it would go."

Rachel and Gaby's experiences represent opposite ends of the spectrum; the majority fall somewhere in between Most, like Sally Jones, will have to settle for a comprimise. "After the tears subsided, my parents said that, in time, they could adjust to the fact that I would never marry or produce grandchildren on condition that I did not tell my sister until she had finished her A levels and that I kept the news from my grandmother.



Gaby Rolf (right) was thrown out of home when she revealed she was a lesbian. Rachel Armstrong (left) received a more sympathetic reaction

"I didn't like the idea at first, but I knew my gran would feel extremely ashamed and constantly anxious that her friends might find out."

Ms Healey has seen enough bewilderment among parents and children to appreciate the complexity on both sides. "Kids want a lot from their narents and almost demand that they see things as they do.

"It's very easy for a child to turn their back and say You are rejecting me so I'll reject In time, bridges can be huilt, but often young people don't have much time. Children must accept that their parents' views were formed in

a different generation. "My parents couldn't help seeing my sexuality as a recipe for a life of unhappiness, misery and failure - that's how it was in their day. It is often hard for parents to see that in fact you can lead a rational, sensible, intelligent life and he a lesbian."

• The Albert Kennedy Trust:

■ Lundon Lesbian and Gay Switchboard: 0171-837 7324 ● Parents' Friend national telephone helpline for parents with lesbian, gay and bisexual offspring: (11132 674627.

# Ruth Gledhill takes the motorway to the gentler sufferings of the Pilgrim's Way

# So that's where our pulpit went



IN THE loft of the tower of this church. an aged tambourine is stored, for inspection by interested visitors. This is not some ironic epitaph to the happyclappy days of the

980s but a relic from the 1800s when it was used to accompany hymns. The tambourine went out of use when the church acquired its barrel organ in the last century - and heaven help any vicar who attempts to reintroduce it here: the church is mentioned in the Domesday Book, and until the Reformation, the substantial house next door was the country manor of the Bishops of Rochester. We sat in enchanting box pews at

the tiny. Norman parish church of Trottiscliffe. Peter and Barbara Whiteland, a rosy-cheeked couple celebrating their ruby wedding anniversary, sat devotedly near the front. Behind them sat their daughter, two grandchildren and other family

members. Above us towered a formidable pulpit, which was originally in Westminster Abbey and, somewhat to the surprise of the Dean and Chapter, who had taken it down for the



★ A five-star guide ★ **RECTOR:** The Rev Christopher Miles SERMON: The meaning of suffering. ★★★★ ARCHITECTURE: Early Norman. Sexon traces. ★★★★

choir. \*\*\* LITURGY: 1662 Book of Common Prayer and NIV Bible. ★★★ SPIRITUAL HIGH: Even higher than the pulpit. \*\*\*

MUSIC: We, the congregation, were the

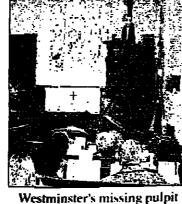
AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Coffee and tea usually served. \*\*\*

coronation of George IV and failed to re-erect it, reappeared at Trottiscliffe

The village stands on the Pilgrim's Way in Kent, and parishioners are being asked to accommodate some of the hundreds of pilgrims who will take part in the 1,400th celebrations of St Augustine's arrival at Canterbury. Our first hymn was a pilgrimage

hymn, and our opening sentence was

confessional: "The sacrifices of God



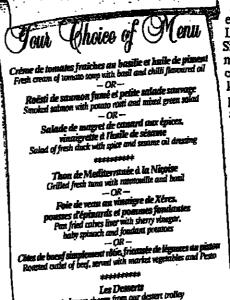
are a broken spirat a broken and a contrite heart. O God, thou wilt not despise," We contessed "We have strayed like lost sheep " We sang the Venite and, after a reading from Exodus, sang the Benedicite, omnia Opera, an early 20th-century chant.

The church is one of four in the cure of the Rev Christopher Miles, a former engineer. The church has its own music group and I somehow found myself forking out 112 for a CD hy the group — a compilation of Graham Kendrick and other modern worship songs - to raise funds for a new centre for the 15th century Addington church.

Although the service was in part a celebration of marriage, this was Lent and so Mr Miles invited us in his sermon to contemplate the meaning of suffering "Sometimes people speak of their faith being destroyed by tragedy, by accidental death, by severe handicap," he said. "They wonder how a God of love could do that to them." This was difficult to answer. Sometimes such a faith needs to be destroyed in order that a true faith can be established," he said. But suffering gave the church a focus for mission. "A person who can approach suffering in a positive frame of mind, knowing God can bring good out of evil, finds it character forming," he said.

Immersed in the language and architecture of the past, it was a struggle to return from the narrow. rustic lanes of Trottiscliffe to the reality of the A20 and the M26. I drave home, longing for the gentler sufferings of the Pilgrim's Way. St Peter and St Paul's Church, Trouveliffe, Kent (01732 842249)

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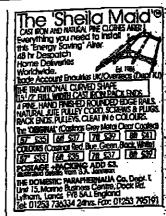


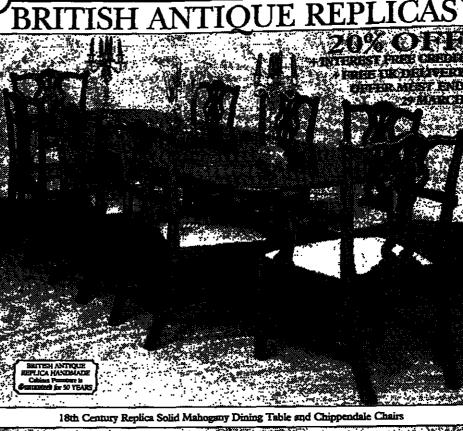




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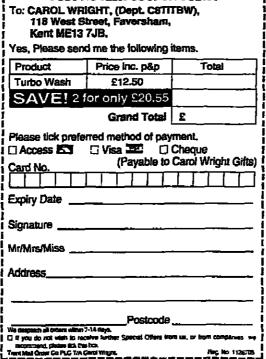
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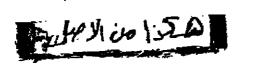


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# Condemned as a vandal or protected? What can be done with the little gentleman in black velvet who wreaks havoc with the lawn?

ave you ever woken up in the morning to discover swellings? Nasty outbreaks, niggling scars everywhere, irritating and big enough to burst. When it happens, is there a cure?

Not to my knowledge. Sufferers learn to live with the affliction unaided by counselling or therapy. We just cope as best we can knowing that it can strike at any moment. The mornings are the worst: we retire the night before in a content frame of mind, feeling sale, only for dawn to reveal that the malady has not gone away. True, it can go into a blissful remission, but for sure it will be back. Damn it.

Or rather, damn them. Moles! They are everywhere; not only despoiling my lawn (about which I do not care too much) but the meadows, which do matter. Grass is all that horses and livestock have to eat in the summer, and every little upheaval that a mole leaves behind is one patch of grass less to be grazed. Imagine the uproar if there were some malevolent creature which could, without warning, appear in the middle of our food; a pointed nose suddenly springing out of your sandwich and are easier, because their burrows are

# Mountains out of molehills

or even a slender

terrier. But the mole

is cleverer than that

and leaves hardly an

opening to his den.

just a defiant show of

When you scan the

shelves for a mole

repellent, you find

none. A good shop

might stock 50 treat-

ments for killing net-

tles, but not moles.

Only something called mole-smokes, and

this is where my problem begins, because pests though they are I have

always thought of them as fellow

creatures and if I am to do battle with

them, would rather it was fair and in the

open air, as with mice and rats. To smoke

earth at the gate.

spoiling not only that one, but all the others for the rest of the year. Science would be all out for a remedy. But what work its way along. has science given us to combat moles? Nothing at all, it has been left to folklore. I have been offered all manner of

fanciful notions, like burying wine bottles so that the note formed when the wind blows across the mouth frightens the moles away. Then how do you mow the lawn? And how can you find enough wine bottles to plant the width of a decent meadow and still be able to walk in a straight line? Or am I missing the point? Is it the idea that you must drink yourself into such oblivion that the sight of molehills no longer inflames you?

As the bailiffs on the site of the Newbury bypass discovered, creatures who spend most of their life below ground are notoriously difficult to deal with because you cannot possibly have the slightest idea where they are. Rabbits

DOWN TO EARTH



read that the mole is a creature of miraculous talents. My Encyclopaedia of Agriculture (1908) still my required bedtime reading poses an interesting question. It says of the worm-eating mole: "Strange as it may appear, no

earth is ever found in

a touch underhand,

the stomach of a mole. How then, does the mole swallow worms with no earth in them?" Since that was written, biological science, has cloned a sheep, but not the mole-earthtummy conundrum. It is quite comforting to feel some fundamental truths remain entirely inexplicable. Another is

wherever a mole appears he throws up better soil than I have ever found in field or garden. Out of the most miserably lumpy clays he will throw forth, like lava from a volcano, a soil as fine as potting compost. What the silky little fellow has managed in moments with his little paws is more than I could achieve in a hour with a spade, fork and rake.

o perhaps we should all be kinder to moles. James Hogg, the famous Ettrick shepherd, put forward the largely unpopular opinion that 'The most unnatural of all persecutions that was ever raised in a country is that against the mole - that innocent and blessed little pioneer who enriches our pastures with the first top dressing, dug with great pains and labour from the

fattest of the soil beneath." Put that way, the appearance of the moley carbuncles is less depressing.

Quarterly Journal of Agriculture, writing around the same time said: "We know of a worthy old gentleman ... who reclaimed from waste his whole paternal estate and laid it in grass fields; he maintained that the moles were his labourers, adding to the depth of soil and fertility of the sward. Husbandmen indeed have long known how to avail themselves of this part of the labours of the mole; but then they have always held it necessary to destroy the labourer." I felt rather ashamed, reading that.

In this confrontational age it is necessary to have a position on every issue, so where should we stand on the gentleman in the black velvet coat? Saint or sinner? He can be condemned for his destructive habits, or sanctified for his tilth-making talents.

I have almost talked myself round to the mole's side. You may wish to differ. I doubt i shall go as far as a mole sanctuary, but a mole farm is a possibility: newly dug soil to sell to gardeners, real moleskin trousers, digging masterclasses for eco-warriors? The

# Still alive, alive-oh but only just

The cockle gatherers of Wales are fighting to save

their precious cottage industry from modern methods

t is Sam on the north Gower coast. At Penelawdd sands, grey and barely distinguishable from the sky, we wait for daybreak which signals the coming of the cockle gatherers. Some have arrived from further afield, already farming

Although an independent breed, gatherers are held cap-tive by nature, following the ebbing tide in search of shellfish. Cockling is a way of life in this peninsula and leading the way is Selwyn's, a company fighting to preserve cottage industry under threat.

Selwyn's Penclawdd Seafoods is a thriving family firm going back four generations. renowned throughout South Wales and named after Selwyn Jones. Today his son Brian and daughter-in-law Alyson run the successful shellfish processing business from a factory which sits on the windswept salt marshes of the north Gower. They carry on a tradition which has evolved since their greatgrandmothers and their donkeys first set foot on the sand more than a century ago.

But now dangerous clouds loom overhead. The Dutch have taken over many of the cockle fisheries in Britain where they have introduced suction dredging, "an activity which would destroy our cockle population", ac-cording to Mrs Jones, who fears the effects of over-fishing. In Penclawdd the dredger companies want to operate for six months of the year, enough for the cockles to be frozen and tinned for the export market. "But our market is a fresh one. To survive, we must gather year-round." Mrs Jones says. In 1910, 250 women collected cockles from the Burry inlet:

issued to locals. Out of those, the Joneses retain seven. About a thousand people in Britain today make their living from cockles, according to the Shellfish Association of Great Britain. In 1995, 24,400 tons were gathered for sale, 80 per cent from the Wash, the



Brian and Alyson Jones Thames and the Solway Firth (mechanically dredged) and 20 per cent from the Burry inlet (by hand). Individuals are licensed to take six hun-

dredweight of cockles per day

are not exceeded. Gathering cockles by hand is arduous. Armed with a cram (rake) and riddle, gatherers choose a section of beach at low tide and scrape just beneath the sand. The cockles are scooped into the riddle. shaken so undersized ones fall through, swirled in a pool and bagged. "It takes two to three hours to collect our quota in the summer; longer in winter

when the sand isn't as thick with cockles." Mr Jones says. Cockles live for four to five years and spawn when a year old. Besides the Burry inlet on the western side of Carmarthen Bay, cockles are gathered principally in the inter-tidal flats of the Wash and Thames estuaries. They are at their

best from June through to

December, although they are gathered throughout the year. Cockles from the Gower peninsula were eaten during Roman times and valued throughout the centuries. Today they can be found far away in grand London restaurants such as Bibendum (in a seafood platter) or the Hyde Park Hotel (warm with garlie, white wine and herbs). Rick Stein, the television chef, uses them at his restaurant in Padstow, Cornwall, in a shellfish marsala based on a recipe

from Goa (not Gower). Gathering cockles became the preserve of women who walked barefoot to Swansea market carrying loaded bas-kets on their heads. Women ruled the sands up until the mid-1940s: 'some were like Selwyn's mother, who provided the only income when their

husbands died in the mines. From Penclawdd to the village of Llanmorlais, a breeze blows over the marsh as retired ponies stroll across it. Llanmorlais is where the tracturs unload sacks of cockles on to a hissing conveyer belt on which they are washed. Shells are separated and the cockles fall into a double bath in which they are thoroughly cooked and rinsed. They come out deliciously sweet.

resh cockles end up in markets from Car-marthen to Billingsgate and the South Wales valleys. The excess is snatched up and canned by Spain and Portugal

The pony and cart disappeared ten years ago, but two things remain unchanged: the shellfish are still collected by hand and cockling is banned on Sundays. To conserve stocks, the South Wales Sea Fisheries Committee does not allow mechanical dredging.



The Sunday edict offers the

cockles a day of rest. The reorganisation of local government since April 1996 has resulted in a lack of funds for the South Wales Sea Fishpoliced the cockle beds and marine environment for more than 100 years. Without it. mechanical dredgers would sweep in overnight and the effects on the cockle beds would, according to the handpickers, be devastating. Local funding is needed by next month for the committee to survive. The Joneses are pinning their hopes on possible EU funds and on their supporters rallying round.

Selwyn Jones himself died late last year but his words sum up the feelings on the "We have always moved with the times. Now they should help us to stay exactly as we are.

Manisha GAMBHIR HARKINS

# **Traditional** food at risk

MANY OF our small, traditional food sources and industries are in danger of being lost forever, threatened as they are by dredgers, alien species, the lure of cheap food and bad husbandry practices, health scares, regulations from Brussels, and changing tastes. With that loss go jobs, diversity and

traditional food ways. We lose a sense of place, that feeling of knowing where you are by what you can eat. The prospect of cheap salmon led to large-scale salmon farming off the northern shores of Scotland and this has posed serious threats to the traditional wild salmon and trout fishing grounds.

The introduction of the signal crayfish from America, a large voracious species, has all but wiped out the native nopulation, and with it the rural idvll of catching crayfish in chalk streams. while European legislation put paid to the tripe dressers of northwest England.



Stilton: forced to change

Almost every postbag brings letters about this. The yeal and ham pie seems to be extinct, according to a Chiswick. reader who says: "I hope it won't vanish to give European and Indian snacks more room; we need it to represent English yeoman kitchen history." A reader in Derbyshire wanted to know where to get the streaky bacon "which left wonderful fat in the breakfast pan for the mushrooms, tomatoes, fried eggs, fried bread, instead of the awful white mess we are left with these days".

We prefer cheap bacon to good bacon and put up with watery, tasteless, quickcured meat from factory-farmed pigs. Stilton is no longer made with unpasteurised milk because of fears, in the winter of 1988-89, of listeriosis associated with soft and blue cheeses. Yet the listeriosis cases that winter were all associated with the Swiss pasteurised soft cheese, Vacherin du Mont d'Or. Among all our traditional cheesemakers of Lancashire and Cheshire, only two farms, Kirkham's in Lancashire and Appleby's in Cheshire make their cheese from unpasteuriesed milk, all the others having succumbed to pressure from their customers, the supermarkets, to pasteurise.

Cheddar, too, is, according to Randolph Hodgson of Neal's Yard fast becoming an endangered species". Only ten farms still make Cheddar in the traditional way. As he says, it is not a matter of retaining traditional ways for the sake of it, but because these produce a better cheese, made slowly and matured slowly.

FRANCES BISSELL

# Listen for the sound of a long kiss

### FEATHER REPORT

IT IS always a cheering sight to see a greenfinch flying towards one. It is such a strong, confident flyer, and its rattling twitter as it approaches sounds very self-assured. At present, if it lands in a treeton it may start making its loud spring call - a wheezing note. rather like a long sucking kiss. If it is nervous it will start its pebbly twitter again, and then it will be off with a flash of its lemon-yellow wings and its greenish-yellow rump.

However, sturdy and sure of themselves though they may seem, this is a dangerous time of year for greenfinches. They have been picking up the fallen seeds of fat hen. persicaria and burdock all the winter, but now supplies are running low, and lew of the early spring flowers have yet turned to seed. There may be some surviving rosehips, and

SHOPAROUND

**ALSO** 

APPEARS ON

PAGE 14

perhaps a few new dandelion and groundsel seeds. But in general, food is hard to find. So, during March and April bird lovers who put out pea-nuts should not slacken off. Peanuts will be extremely welcome to greenfinches, who nowadays are as at home in

gardens as they are in fields. Most of them have paired up by now, and one often sees the male darting through the branches after his mate. He is also starting to sing. His song is just an extension of his normal twitter - a full-hodied version of it. followed by a string of more melodious notes. It might be described as a "chip chip chip" followed by

a "choo choo choo". Greenfinches do not defend large territories in the way chaffinches do. They chase other greenfinches away from a small area around the laurel bush or yew tree in which they

will make their nest. They build bulky nests of twigs and grass, lined with hairs, and like to place them in the fork of an evergreen, usually just out of reach of an inquisitive human. They will be laying their four or five eggs, which are a faint blue or green with brown blotches, at the end of April, so plant seeds



Greenfinches are busy looking for des res in the garden

will be abundant by the time the first brood hatches out. The male feeds his mate while she is sitting, and both share in feeding the young. giving them a mixture of insects and seeds. The podgy green young are packed tight in the nest by the time they are ready to fly — they always look

to me like a box of glace fruits, if I climb up to look at them. Like their close relatives, the goldfinches, they do not object to other members of their

species nesting quite close by.

They are sociable hirds, and

will often go off foraging in the

summer with other green-finches, just as they do in the

spots a clump of weeds with ripe seeds showering from it. the whole party can benefit. After its first broad of young has fledged, the pair will

usually have a couple more broods before summer is out, sometimes moving a long distance away each time. Well into September the trees are full of squealing young creenfinches.

For the moment, though, the males are starting to parade themselves round their territory with a curious butterfly-like flight, singing as

In this flight they look quite different from their normal selves. They beat their wings hesitantly, then glide with all their feathers puffed up. As they flit in this manner over gardens and parks, frequently changing course, they are one of the most extraordinary spectacles of early spring.

DERWENT MAY

 What's about: Birders — watch out for flocks of migrating lesserbacked gulls returning to Britain to breed. Twitchers — a blue-winged teal at Little Longstone. Derbyshire; a laughing gull at Newty Docks, Co. Armagh; and a hoopoc at Abersoch, Gwynedd. Details from Birdline 0891 700222 Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p a minute at all

### ON THE SPOT: NORTH CORNISH COAST

Glebe Cliff, Tintagel, North The view: Tintagel church and Port Isaac Bay behind, the Island and Lower Ward of King Arthur's Castle, Merlin's Cave and Cove. Barras Nose and the King Arthur's Castle Hotel ahead. One of the best walks on the north Cornish coast. The appeal: I holidayed in

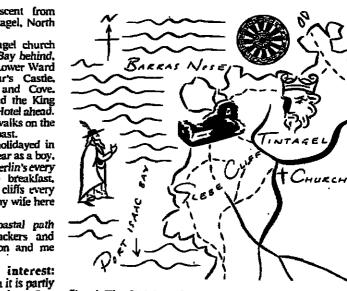
Tintagel every year as a boy. beachcombed Merlin's every morning before breakfast, and walked the cliffs every day. I brought my wife here on honeymoon.

The place: Descent from

Cornwall.

Alicionados: Coastal path walkers, backpackers and tourists in season and me when it is wet. Historical

Abounds, though it is partly mythical. King Arthur's Castle, a romantic and vestigial ruin, is really 13th century. and was built in the time of Earl Richard of Cornwall, Henry III's younger brother, who became King of the Romans. But Geoffrey of Monmouth could not have picked a better spot for King Uther Pendragon's night of passion with Igraine, wife of Gorlois, Duke of Cornwall, the tryst arranged by Merlin which resulted in Arthur's birth. Sadly when they



filmed The Knights of the Round Table with Robert Taylor. Tintagel could only be featured as a Scottish castle laid ruin by Lancelot. Time of day/time of year to visit: Our honeymoon was March, holidays were June and September. All lovely. Morning has the best light, but sunsets from Glebe Cliff can be spectacular. OS Reference: 050889 (on

Landranger 200) How to Get There: From Tintagel Church walk to- • Illustration: Jane Spencer

ward the sea and bear right toward King Arthur's Castle and Merlin's.

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Also nearby: Tintagel village is not wonderful but The Old Post Office, a 14thcentury house owned by the National Trust, is a must as is King Arthur's Great Hall of Chivalry, creation of a custard magnate whose Order of the Round Table had a membership of 16,000.

ROBIN YOUNG

Ray Leonard surveys a polluted beach at Blackhall

# Sea change for the black coast

After decades of use as a tip for pit waste, the shores of County Durham are being

returned to nature. Clare Stewart reports

of County Durham's short coastline its remarkable butterflies, flowers and cliffs - often set the pulses racing, the blackened and heavily polluted beaches can also make the heart sink. But not, perhaps, for much longer.

Head east from Durham towards the North Sea and you come across signposts to collieries. You will not find any, though. Outside the port of Seaham and along the coast road to Peterlee and Hartlepool there are areas of bleak wasteland and new development sites. These, on the surface at least, are all that remain of six collieries that once dominated the coast. providing 11,000 jobs. The last pit, Easington, closed four years ago. Left behind are unemployment and an environmental challenge.

For more than a century parts of the coast were used as the cheapest and most convenient rubbish tip for mine waste, with as much as 2.5 million tonnes of spoil being

hile the attractions dumped in peak years. Overhead of County Dur-conveyors carried the waste from the pits and over the clifftops to be flung into the sea just off the foreshore, while convoys of forries dumped large amounts of slurry from the coal washeries.

The beaches known for golden sands and seaside outings in the early 1900s have long since disap-peared under 12ft-15ft of spoil in places, and the shoreline has been pushed further out to sea. The result is barren areas which proved more suitable for one of the Alien films than for building sandcastles. So, not surprisingly, the Durham coast does not get glowing write-ups in books on beautiful Britain, and many guides ignore the coast between Hartlepool and Sunderland, despite it being Britain's only stretch of magnesium limestone

This limestone supports flowerrich grasslands of botanical interest and much of the coast is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). There are



also a number of denes, dramatic steep-sided valleys of ancient and unspoilt woodland that run inland from the coast. The largest, Castle Eden Dene, is a nature reserve

managed by English Nature.

The demise of the coal industry dealt a heavy blow to the region. but has also opened the way to environmental change after more than 40 years of battling to stop the damaging effects of tipping. In 1984, a Royal Commission trumpeted that the beaches were a national disgrace, while local pressure groups kept up a dogged campaign for change, prompting headlines about the "sands of grime" and the Costa del Soiled".

Now, however, a £10 million project called Turning the Tide has

mental improvement along a 13-mile stretch of coast from Ryhope south to Crimdon. It will also link a number of conservation schemes already under way. The project

is part of the East

Durham Task Force, a regeneration initiative, and the participants include Durham County Council, Easington District Council, the Countryside Commission, English Nature and the National Trust, which owns nearly five miles of the coastline.

In January, Turning the Tide was awarded £4.5 million by

the Millennium Commission. which has given the project the linancial spur and momentum to ensure that a large part of it will be completed by the

year 2000. Despite the pollution, the mines provided some benefits to the coast. The unsightli-

ness of the pits meant that other forms of seaside development, such as caravan parks, were kept at bay, and the higher beach levels from the dumping of spoil provided some protection for the cliffs from sea erosion.

This summer work begins on the

monumental task of removing two

shoreline spoil heaps of about 1.5 million tonnes at Easington and Horden. Unless removed, these heaps will continue to pollute the beaches and over time become unstable. Some of this spoil is going back to the Easington colliery site, which is to be landscaped, and where there are plans for a visitors' centre. At Horden, the spoil will return to the clifftop where, with a limestone capping, it will be re-

sown as grassland Removing all the spoil from the coastline would be costly and environmentally difficult. But there is one natural answer. "The sea can reduce the spoil by about a foot a year," says Ray Leonard, the project manager who is based with

Cleaner seawater also helps, and investment by Northumbrian Water in better sewage treatment works is tackling the problem of beach outfall. Longer term, there remains the impact of mine waste on the seabed, where the effect on marine life is being studied.

Turning the Tide is not just concerned with the impact of coal mining on the seashore and marine environment. Much of the coastal strip is intensively farmed arableland, where the use of fertilisers has damaged the natural flora and fauna of the limestone grasslands along the difftops. Farming has also contributed to cliff erosion, with land drains and run-off from the fields washing away soil.

The project aims to acquire as much of the coastal strip as possible and return it to accessible natural grassland, and to prevent SSSI areas being squeezed between natural cliff-face erosion and arable

This reinstated grassland, says Mike Lowe, the countryside officer for Durham County Council, "will be one of the biggest habitat re-creation schemes in the country".

iodiversity is the guiding principle here, and the being used has been harvested from the small surviving areas of unspoiled grassland, rath-

er than using imported seeds.

Bloody cranesville (Geranium sanguineum) is a feature of the limestone grasslands along with the rockrose, the main food supply for the Durham Argus, a species of butterfly unique to the county.

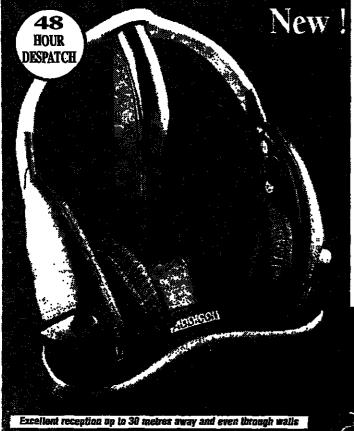
Several varieties of orchid, including the common spotted and fragrant orchid, can be found, and the reintroduction of the rare greenwinged orchid, driven out by farm-

ing, is being considered.
Golden sands and wild orchids are not the sole criteria for success. however. Rekindling local pride is important, as is opening up the coast for wider enjoyment. Better paths and access routes are planned to allow exploration of the clifftops and beaches, along with improved public information about the denes and other natural features. A cycle route through the area is planned which will link into the national Sustrans cycle

Turning the Tide is not about 'Blackpool and deckchairs," Mr Leonard says. It is about rediscovering the natural attraction of the coastline. A vast influx of visitors in cars is neither wanted nor will it be provided for, he adds.

As the area copes with the economic and social problems after the closure of the mines, the project "about change and this community," Mr Leonard says. "It shows what can happen if people invest in

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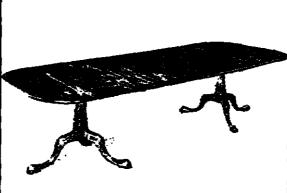
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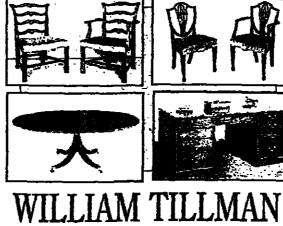
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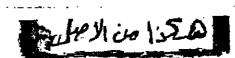
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DOUGAL D. THORNTON



# If it's good enough for Diana... Finding a safe holiday destination free from the prying eyes of the paparazzi is no easy task for the world's

most photographed woman, but she has found it in the Caribbean islands, says Anthony Holden

n the important subject of escaping the British winter. Diana, Princess of Wales has rather different criteria from the rest of us mere mortals. Apart from sun, sea and sand, and live-star luxury, the time-off priorities of the world's most famous

woman are — unsurprisingly — privacy and security. Since an unhappy experience in the Indian Ocean in 1993, when a break with two girlfriends on the island of Moyo was cut short by the nocturnal invasions of a wild pig. Diana has opted exclusively for the West Indies. She learnt to love the Caribbean in the late 1980s at the height of her marital problems, when she holidayed without her husband on the tiny island of Necker. Richard Branson's private fieldom in the British Virgin Islands.

Fleet Street's royal "ratpack" twice checked into the jaunty nearby resort of Bitter End. on Virgin Gorda, as Diana and her sons enjoyed island house parties hosted by her mother, Frances Shand-Kydd, for all three of her daughters and their children. In those days, when Diana was still HRH. members of the royal protection squad also got to enjoy the expensive delights of Necker.

Since her separation from the Prince of Wales in 1992. Diana has felt freer to roam the idyllic chain of Caribbean islands — many of which remain her former mother-inlaw's dominions — in search of her ideal destination. In all, she has taken eight West Indian holidays with or without her sons, depending on school terms.

A series of protocol hiccups in 1993 highlighted the problems attending any holiday the Princess takes anywhere, before or since her divorce last year. Following a last-minute decision to take her sons on an end-of-year sunshine break. after they had spent Christmas? without her at Sandringham. she faced a choice between three venues favoured by the

Caribbean jet set. The front-runner was Jamaica's top resort, Round Hill, and specifically Room 26 - the most alluring hotel suite in the West Indies, with its own chef and maid, four double-bedrooms, and a private swimming pool in the open-air sitting room.

This is where Paul-McCartney takes his family for Christmas, but the Jamaican authorities could not countenance a visit from the Princess and the future King William without mounting an honour guard at the airport to bid them welcome. These days she goes on holiday precisely to get away from such formalities, so an advance party of Special Branch officers changed direction to check out Jumby Bay, the super-exclu-sive island resort just off Antigua.

They soon agreed with the management that the festive season - the busiest time of the Caribbean year, when the place is packed to overflowing would not be ideal liming for a royal visit, so instead she went to Nevis. Private villas clearly make sense for Diana if privacy can be guaranteed.

The near-impossibility of this was demonstrated last summer when photographers

Romantic hideaway: one of the Balinese-style villas on Necker, in the British Virgin Islands, owned by Richard Branson. A staff of 22 is included in the price, from £6,700 a day invaded the grounds of the myself at the end of a long trail French villa she shared for a checking out Diana's Caribbe-

BARBUDA

week with her fellow royal

divorcee the Duchess of York.

Princess Margaret, Diana's

hattan-sur-mer.

famous as herself.

Easter 1996, and then again

with Mendham for last Christ-

mas and new year. The previ-ous week I had been there

next-door neighbour in Ken-IT IS NOT hard to see why the sington Palace, also loves the West Indies, spending several K Club, on the otherwise empty island of Barbuda, has weeks a year at her private villa on the Windward island become Diana's favourite Caof Mustique. Reluctant to ribbean hideaway. As part of the service, free of charge, they capitalise on her royal relamobilise the Antiguan army to tions, Diana opted instead for a week at the luxury villa of a seal off both ends of the friend, the photographer Patprivate 1.5-mile beach for her. rick Demarchelier, on the and a coastguard vessel to select but pricey Leeward iskeep the paparazzi at bay. land of St Barthelemy -Amid celebrity guests too known to its habitues as St super-cool to stare, Diana can Barth's and to others as Manenjoy her morning run along the water's edge, followed by a But same trapped her in strenuous exercise session, in Demarchelier's mountain reas much privacy as she can treat, with tantalising, long-distance views of dreamy find anywhere in the world.

The K Club, 40 beachfront beaches impossible for her to villas set in a 230-acre private visit. Not until the end of 1995 estate, is as near to Caribbean did Diana finally find the perfection as it gets, living up super-resort of her dreams. to its boast to treat every guest which answered all her needs: as "the most pampered Robinthe small but ultra-chic son Crusoe in the world". K Club on the tiny Antilles island of Barbuda, where the Even its private plane, which picks you up in Antigua for the few other guests are almost as 20-minute hop to Barbuda, is liveried in the distinctive turquoise-and-white decor che-After a winter break there with her girl Friday, Victoria sen to mirror the sea and sand Mendham, Diana returned to by Krizia, the Italian fashion designer who opened the rethe K Chub with her sons for

sort in 1989. The K Club's away-from-itall policy rises above newspapers or television but its spacious and airy Club House has a games room and library with bestsellers in four languages, and a well stocked bar beside the sea water punt and Jacuzzi. Its array of blue-



The Princess on the Leeward island of St Barthelemey

and-white sofas double as a "conversation area" - if the celebrity guests unbend enough to speak to each other. The Princess and her sons can sit right here without anyone bothering them." Michael Neutelings. Dutch manager, told me over banana daiquiri.

Like any resident film star. they can also cut unmolested in the club's elegant beachfrom restaurant, serving superb haute cutsine "based on Mediterranean traditions", or in the privacy of their twobedroom villa. But they cannot send postcards home: the K Club is far too refined to offer such kitsch tourist fare.

The K Club's spacious vil-las, cooled by trade winds as much as air-conditioning, were designed by the Italian architect Gianni Gamondi, a friend of Krizia who is responsible for many resort hotels on Sardinia's Costa Smeralda

The club also has a nine hole golf course, two floodlit tennis courts and all the water sports but, in the unlikely event that guests want to go out looking for action, there are pheasants, deer, wild hoar, even buffaloes to hunt in the island's 70 square mile swampy interior. The club lays on excursions to the Grand Lagoon, a wildlife sanctuary boasting the ex-

tremely rare frigate bird. Di- safe in which to lock away all ana, who may take her sons the cash you will not be back to the K Club this Easter, needing during your stay. after they have been on an African safari with their father, is unlikely to find a

ANTIGUA

JUMBY BAY Island is the offshore Antiguan resort so exclusive that it turned Diana away because of all the helicopters, photographers and other riff-raff she would inevitably trail in her wake. Or so the story goes.

In fact, as explained above. the timing was not right for a visit which William Anderson. the resort's American manager, naturally says he would welcome. In 1993, however, the opportunity for some publicity was seized by a minority of the mega-rich owners of private villas on the island, as they embarked on a long-running legal dispute with its

owners. Apart from Lord Sainsbury, the novelist Ken Follett and the reclusive British businessmen Roland Franklin and Peter Swann, Jumby Bay residents include the British-born American television star Robin Leach, host of Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous. He said: "We voted no to Princess Di and decided we didn't want the helicopters and the

The 300-acre island off the northeast coast of Antigua, accessible only by its own private ferry, is so secure that its rooms have no keys, only a

available for hire, but visitors have to negoriate the flocks of

Aeroplanes taking off from nearby Antigua airport are the only noisy clouds on the perfect holiday horizon. The rooms have ceiling fans, bars and private patios keys, telephones, televisions, radios or clocks.

SITUATED on the island of Nevis, Montpelier sits 800 feet up the side of a volcano. The historic sugar house, where Horano Nelson married Frances Nishet in 1787, is far too English to boast about its unexpected visit from Diana and her sons, plus a dozen security and other staff. who cheerfully bounced down to the beach every day in the back of the hotel's flathed

Picture a British country house weekend party in the West Indian sun and you get a flavour of the lifestyle hosted by Montpelier's eccentric English owner, James Milnes Gaskell, and his wife Celia. After peaceful days, when most guests forsake the pool for picnic lunches half an hour away at a private three-acre stretch of Pinney's Beach, the evenings begin with a cocktail party at 7.45pm, followed by dinners at which guests are encouraged to mingle.

Mr Milnes Gaskell was educated at Eton and Cambridge and bought this 370acre plot in 1963 as a virtual ruin. Four years later, in June 1967, he had just finished building his hotel when the government put him in jail for siding with the Opposition over independence from Britain. After 42 days in St Kitts prison ("not too bad, actually"), he was deported. For 13 years he hired locals to run the hotel before he was allowed to return after a change of government in 1980.

Most guests enjoy squeezing the rest of his colourful life story out of their host during their stay. If you enjoy the company of strangers and don't long to be right on the beach, Montpelier will make a welcome change from all those American-style resort hotels - exemplified by the huge Four Seasons nearby

NECKER THIS private 75-acre paradise in the British Virgins, owned by Richard Branson, sends its speedboat to collect guests from the nearby airport at Beef Island, Tortola. There is

accommodation for groups of Continued on page 17

# island. Bicycles are provided free and golf buggies are

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wines from the New York

winery of John and Harry

Mariani, the island's owners. The Mariani brothers

bought what was then Long

Island in 1986, renamed it

Jumby Bay (in Antiguan folk-

lore, a jumbie is a friendly

native spirit) and set out to

turn it into one of the most

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villas are dotted all over the







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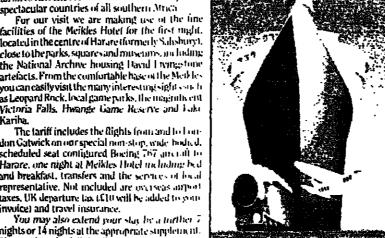
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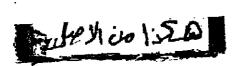




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Necker is run for Branson Mark and Joanne Netherwood, a genial young Australian husband-and-wife team, and would be the ideal place to take all your friends if

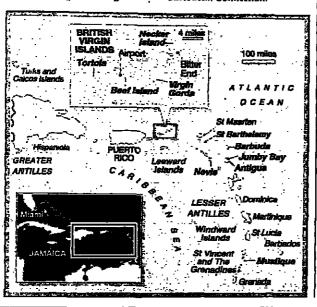
you won the lottery.

Beside the sleekly furnished main house, which has a full-size snooker table and state-of-the-art hi-fi system, lies a sizeable pool commanding stunning views

ing islands. There are breaklast areas, sunset seats, a gym, island walks and endless nooks and crannies, as well as three different beaches, one with tennis courts and barbecue area. But meals included in the price with as much as you can drink - are strictly communal.

Those who share Branson's taste for madcap adventure can parasail behind a speedboat or water-ski behind a helicopter. There are even plans for a "monkey run" so risitors can abseil from house to beach. Branson's own spa-cious master bedroom, with its private rooftop terrace. should suit the group leader as well as it did Diana, for whom the island proved the perfect escape from prying lenses. Necker is the ultimate bolt-hole for those with money to burn.

 The author was a guest of Caribbean Connecti



#### CARIBBEAN FACT FILE

British Airways (0345 222111) flies to Antigua from £771; as does BWIA (0181-577 1100) from £752.

■ Necker Island can only be booked direct, as below. Package deals at all the others, including return flights from the UK, are available from Caribbean Connection (01244 341131) and Elegant Resorts (01244 897999). Prices vary according to season. K Club: from £3,206 to £4,449 per person, seven nights full-board in cottage room. Jumby Bay: £2,358 to £4,448 per person, seven nights full board in a deluxe junior suite. Montpelier: £1,058 to £1,960 per person, seven nights bed and breakfast only in a premier room.

BARBUDA

Address: K Club, Barbuda, Antigua, Windward Islands (00) 268 460 0300).

Twelve-minute, seven-mile transfer by courtesy bus from Barbuda's Codrington airstrip (20-minute flight from Antigua EIL3 each way by hotel's private jet or El7 each way by scheduled LIAT flight); 28 spacious, airconditioned cottage rooms with large shower/bathroom, seafront terrace with bar, patio dining area and private beach frontage: 12 garden villas and luxury suites also available at nigher prices. Daily rates for room in single or

double cottage, based on two people sharing: £1,100 (December 16-April 14); £600 (April 15-May 31): £500 (June 1-August 3i). Closed September I-November 14. Reopens (November 15-December 15.) Prices do not include government tax of 8.5 per cent, and 10 per cent service charge. Antigua departure tax is £8 per person. Prices include: all meals (but not drinks), room service, picnic service, tennis (floodlif), snorkelling, windsurfing, sailing boats, TV and video room, K Club assistance at Antigua airport. Available at extra cost: deep-sea fishing, reef and bone fishing, water-skiing, bird watching.

golf, massage, hairdresser.

All major credit cards accepted

Dress code: "Elegantly casual"

(jackets and ties not required).

Children under 12 not accepted

**ANTIGUA** 

Address: Jumby Bay Island, PO Box 243, St John's, Antigua (001 268 462 6000). Three miles (20 minutes by courtesy bus and ferry) from V.C. Bird airport, Antigua, a nine-hour BA direct (light from London. All-inclusive daily rates: Luxury villa (two-three bedroom, price per room for two guests) £1,100 (December 20-January 3); £1,050 (January 4-February I); £1,100 (February 2-28); £880 (April 6-May 24 and November 2-December 18), £800 (May 25-November 1). Deluxe junior suite: £800 (20 Dec-3 Jan, 2-28 Fcb), £700 (4 Jan-I Feb), £566 (6 April-24 May. 2 Nov-18 Dec). £440 (25 May-I Nov). Prices do not include government tax of 8.5 per cent and service charge of 10 per cent. Departure tax: £8 per person. Prices include: accommodation. all meals including unlimited house wine, cocktails, launch and airport taxi, postage, American newspapers, use of tennis courts, snorkelling gear sailing boats, sailboards, fitness centre, bicycle and croquet. Available at extra cost: chartered sailing, deep-sea fishing. golf, resident tennis pro, scuba diving and instruction, waterskiing, massage, laundry. sightseeing/shopping excursions to Antigua (including the casino). All major credit cards accepted. Dress code "elegantly casual" (long trousers and shirts with collars for men in the evenings). October-May: no children under

NEVIS

Address: Montpelier Plantation, PO Box 474. Nevis. Windward Islands (00) 869 469 3462). Twelve miles (30 minutes by taxi costing £13) from Nevis airport. accessible by 30-minute LIAT flight from Antigua for £35 each way. Sixteen rooms. (nine with kingsize bed, eight with two doubles one family suite. Daily rates for double room, bed & breakfast only: £187 (December 15-April 15), £120 (April 16-December 14). Lunch, dinner and drinks extra. Prices do not include government tax of 7 per cent and service charge of 10 per cent. Nevis departure tax: £7 per person.



Pinney's Beach on Nevis, where Diana, Princess of Wales arrived unexpectedly to spend a holiday

Prices include: bed and breakfast, afternoon tea. use of private beach (25 minutes away by courtesy bus), tennis courts, snorkelling gear.

Available at extra cost: golf (at nearby Four Seasons Resort), tennis lessons, deep-sea fishing, scuba diving and other watersports. Credit cards

accepted. Dress code "casual chic to informal" (long trousers and shirts with collars for men in the evenings). Children over eight

NECKER

Address: PO Box 1091, The Valley, Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands (809 494 2757) UK bookings via Virgin Ultimate, 120 Campden Hill Road,

London WS 7AR (0171-727-8000). Half-hour transfer by private launch from Tortola airport, accessible by 90-minute flight from Antigua cost £108 return. Helicopter transfer from St Thomas (US Virgin Islands) available at extra charge. Ten double rooms in main house, plus two in separate villas. Daily rates for entire island. including transfer and all rooms all meals and drinks, staff of 22, use of pool, tennis courts and gym. Sunfish and sailing dinghies, water-skiing and snorkel equipment, for 20-24 guests, \$16,000 per day: for 15-19 guests, \$15,000 per day; for eight to 14 guests, \$13,000; for one to seven guests, \$11,000.

Price includes a boat to visit other islands, laundry and business facilities, seven per cent local

tax. Available at extra cost: travel arrangements to and from UK, scuba diving and instruction, deep-sea fishing, yacht charter, secretarial assistance. A 25 per cent service charge is payable on departure. Supplement charged during Christmas and Easter. No dress code. Children welcome.

Reading: The Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: The Traveller's Tree, by Patrick Leigh Fermor (Penguin, £7.99). Diving Guide to the Eastern Caribbean, hy Martha Watkins Gilkes (Macmillan, £10.95). Cruising Around the Caribbean (Thomas Cook, £15.99). The Northeastern Caribbean, by James Henderson (Cadogan,

# Happy as a sandboy

The island of Aruba is one of the

best-kept secrets in the Caribbean

The car number plates are a cheerful red and carry the slogan Aruba: One Happy Island. It's naff, but remarkably close to being true. This was once a deserted patch of rock rising from the Caribbean 15 miles off the coast of Venezuela, covered in cacti and visited only by the occasional pirate. Now it has miles of palm-fringed beaches, breakers and white sand.

dream hotels and restaurants. The climate is warm, about 82 degrees all year round, with cooling trade winds, and it lies outside the hurricane belt. The perfect spot for a romantic interlude in the West Indies -so why have we never heard of

Mostly because it is a former Dutch colony, not a British one. Holland seized Aruba in 1636 and, apart from a brief occupation in the Napoleonic Wars, it has been Dutch ever since. It has be-

come one of the most attractive islands in the Caribbean, but its visitors are from the United States, Latin America and the Netherlands. Almost no one goes there from Britain and we are definitely missing out.

The island is small, 19 miles by six. Apart from the beaches and the climate, its magic lies in its people. They are descended from the Arawak Indians, Dutch or Spanish settlers and negroes from other islands (there was no slavery on Aruba), and are warmly welcoming. Apart from one oil refinery, Aruba lives by tourism, but there is more to it than that; as Arubans smile in the sunlight, they seem genuinely eager to share their good fortune.

What they have to share is a tropical paradise and a legacy of Dutch rule that has left them a standard of living not far behind Western Europe. There is no ex-colonial resent-

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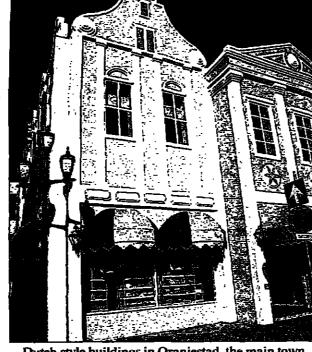
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Dutch-style buildings in Oranjestad, the main town

ment: over steins of Heineken. Holland is spoken of with misty-eyed affection.

The Dutch have bequeathed good schools, an excellent health service, modern roads and an island of manicured neatness straight out of the polders. Everyone speaks English, as well as Dutch. Spanish and the local Papia-

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mento. There may be only \$1,000 Arubans, but they constitute an autonomous province within the Netherlands amazed and amused that they have been given their own parliament. flag and national anthem. The government sends its young people to university in America or Holland, the economy is buoyant.

minimal crime. International hotels are concentrated along the north-west enast, a luxurious new 400 room Mariott, Holiday Inn. Hyan and so on. Smaller locally-owned hotels are of equally high standard and perhaps more friendly. A good example is the Bucati Beach. owned and managed by Ewald Biemans and his wife Susan, right on the shore with 63 well-appointed rooms, all with an ocean view. There are also guest houses, villas and apariments.

Eating out is varied and good value. At Brisas del Mar. Lucia Rasmijn offers lobster, baby shark and a kaleidoscope of other seaford in a waterside

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fishing shed; the Ellis family's Papiamento restaurant has an international menu, with tables around the swimming pool in the garden of a colonial mansion that is also their home. Snack meals are inexpensive, dinner under the stars in an idyllic setting - of which there are many - from

ou can hire the gear for scuba diving, windsurfing and most other watersports; water-skiing is available and a submarine called Atlantis runs underwater tours. Apart from renting a jeep or mountain bike to explore the island, there is riding and golf. As well as numerous bars and nightclubs, Aruba has 11 casinos with roulette, blackjack and rows of one-armed bandits, pulled for hours by gumchewing Mid-Westerners with glazed eyes.

But there is no point going unless you are looking for total hedonism in a place that pretends, quite successfully, that all the problems in the world have evaporated. "Ours is a happy paper." said the

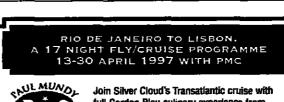
editor of Aruba Today. "We don't print any bad news." Live like an Aruban — relax in the sun, eat and drink well, make love within sound of Caribbean breakers. Forget sightseeing.

Despite 300 years of Dutch occupation, there is little sign of the past: some delicate wood-carving in the Church of St Anna, one windmill and a few Amsterdam-style gabled houses in the main town, Oranjestad. The rusty masts of the single German freighter sunk in the Second World War have become a major attraction for boat trips.

So few British visitors go. that you cannot fly direct. But there are regular KLM flights from Amsterdam, with connections from Heathrow and 13 other UK airports, including Bristol, Edinburgh and

The best starting point for information is the Aruba Tourism Authority. The nearest office is in The Hague (but the staff speak English).

MICHAEL HARTLAND ■ The author was a guest of KLM and Journey Latin America.



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KLM flies from Heathrow and 13 regional airports via Amsterdi Return flights, from £439. and accommodation can be booked through Journey Latin America 14-16 Devonshire Road, (0181-747 3108). Other comp include: North American i ravel, 241 Kens High Street, London W8 6SA (0171-938 3737). The

Travel Design Company 51 High Street, Reigate RH2 9RT (01737 222250)

Reservations for the Aruba Marriott Resort can be made through Marriott worldwide (0800 221222): rooms from £130 a day. Rooms at the Bucuti Beach Resort (00 29 7831100) cost from ■ Details of guest houses and apartments from the Aruba

Tourism Authority in The Hague (00 3170 356 6220).

Reading: A Short History of the West Indies by J.H.Parry. (Macmillan, E7.95) Travels with My Trombone by Henry Shukman (Flamingo, £6.99). Caribbean Fielding Guide (£13.95).

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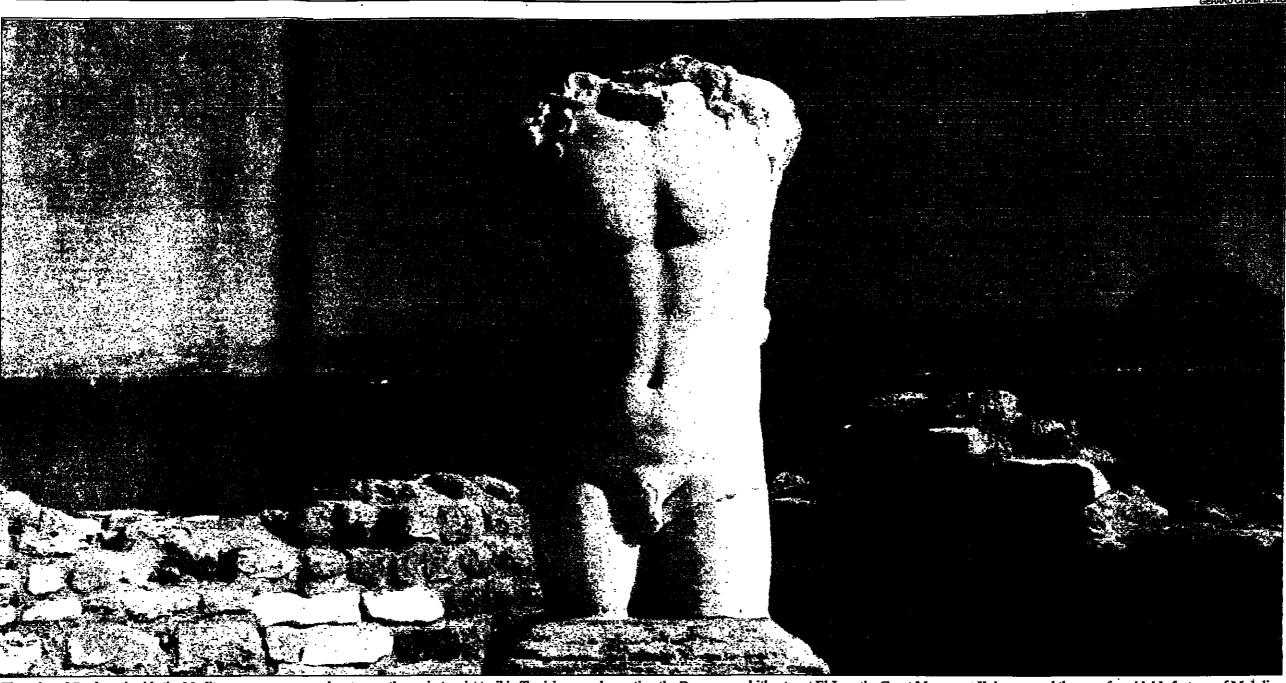
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SYRIA JORDAN TURKEY with no shartly towns and

# Tunisia: The views, mosques and forts of past invaders are extravagant – but you can get a good meal for £2



The ruins of Carthage beside the Mediterranean are a popular stop on the main tourist trail in Tunisia, complementing the Roman amphitheatre at El Jem, the Great Mosque at Kairouan and the once formidable fortress of Mahdia

From the Vandals to tourists

one of the most promising holiday spots in the Mediterranean, combining a touch of North African exotic with

French sophistication. Although most of the tourist hotels are at Monastir, or along the beach towards Hammamet, anyone staying on this stretch of coast should visit the ancient city of Sousse. Its natural harbour and central position, have attracted, over the centuries, Romans. Byzantines, Vandals and Arabs. Today, the old medina, on the hillside above the port.

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Prices £189 pp for 7 mights 01273 206531 🖾 is still surrounded by a sturdy ous stone steps that rise steenstone wall and battlements, ly from the port. The panoraand the skyline is a jumble of ma from the top is stunning, encompassing the medina, the port and the sparkling minarets and towers. Yet the pavement opposite the Place

Mediterranean.

In the top corner of the medina is the kasbah, which atmosphere is relaxed and grew up around the huge Khalef Tower. Today, this former fort houses the city sophisticated. It could easily be Marseilles. Here, wealthy Tunisians museum (entry is via Boule-vard Marechal Tito). Exhibits and tourists sip espressos. smoke cigarettes and watch the world go by — including the trains that trundle through include Roman statues and superb mosaics illustrating the middle of town. daily life and the local animals Inside the old medina is the and fish. Like many of the archaeological sites in Tuni-Great Mosque, founded in the 9th century, and beyond are sia. Sousse museum has the the narrow alleyways and bonus of a pleasant, leafy lanes of the bazaar: figs and courtyard and a large, shady,

spices, leather and clothes, relaxing tea garden. Beyond Sousse, one of the nirs and perfumes entice the most stunning sights is the senses. Butchers' stalls display huge, well-preserved 2nd-cena cow's head with a blade of tury amphitheatre at El Jem, grass hanging out of its which can be reached by bus, mouth, like James Dean with louage (shared taxi) or train. a cigarette. Yet what makes The 30,000-seat amphitheatre Sousse special are the numerdominates the town. Inside,

the site is a maze of archways and passages, balconies and seats, buttresses and chambers. But it's hard to envisage the gory Roman spectacles that were held here - animals pitted against men, Christians slaughtered.

A short journey from El Jem is Mahdia, a fishing town built on a peninsula on the Sachel coast. In the 10th century, Mahdia was the capital of the Fatimids, who ruled Tunisia and later Egypt. A huge wall was built across the headland and the only entrance was through a massive stone gate. and then a long, dark passage. The Spanish destroyed the

walls of Mahdia in 1554, but you can still enter the old town through a 16th century reconstruction of the gateway and get some idea of how intimidating it must have been.

Inside, is the old medina with stone slab pavements, a few small mosques and numerous weaving workshops.

The centre of the medina is the Place du Caire, a cool, leafy square where old men sit drinking tea and smoking water pipes. Beyond is the Great Mosque and, further on, the hilltop fort.

ear the fort, excavations of ancient buildings are being carried out. However, the fort itself is only worth a visit for the view from its battlements. Immediately below are the narrow streets of the old town, but stretching into the distance an array of tourist hotels spreads out along the coastline in the

direction of Monastir. El Jem and Mahdia can be visited easily on the same day. but one other "must" trip from Sousse requires at least a full day to do it justice. About an hour's drive from Sousse is Kairouan, the holy city of Tunisia and fourth in Islam (after Mecca, Medina and

Jerusalem). The city was founded by Oqba Ibn Nafi in AD 670 and became the capital of the Aghlabids, the Arab rulers of Tunisia. It was once said that seven visits here were worth one to Mecca and, up until late last century, Christians could obtain entry only with an official permit.

Here, few concessions are made to tourists and the character is unmistakably old and venerable, with several impressive gateways still standing. Most tourists arrive at the Place des Martyrs, near the Bab ech Chouhada gare. There is a large square here with several outdoor cafes.

Near the mosque ticket office are the Aghlabid Pools. built in the 9th century in the hope that they would produce humidity and reduce the summer heat. The plan backfired because the pools became a breeding ground for mosquitoes which spread malaria. Of the many places to visit

carved ceilings, decorative lamps, archways, cool court-yards and carpet-floored chambers. Abu Zama el Belaoui, one of the companions of the Prophet, is buried here, and the wealth of carpets is explained by the tradition that the young girls of the city present the first carpet they make to the mosque. At the opposite end of the medina, through a maze of alleyways, is the Great Mosque, a large and powerful

here, the best is the Barber

Mosque, a short distance along the Avenue de la

Republique. This is an exquisite place with wonderful mo-saics of coloured tiles, stucco

structure, surprisingly simple and bare after the Barber Mosque. It is worth visiting, if only to see the white and bluewashed houses along the way, and the extravagant doorways with their carved lintels and ornate wooden doors. The louvred shutters of the upper

Mediterranean Sea

Tunis •

LIBYA

storeys indicate the French influence.

The Great Mosque was built mostly in AD 836. Inside. a huge open courtyard and a large prayer which is a forest of columns and candelabra. Local tradition says that anybody who counts them all will turn blind.

Back near the Bab ech Chouhada is the ornate Ghariani Mosque and the Bir Barouta, which, though it looks like a mosque, is a well. At the top of a rickety flight of stairs a camel tramps endlessly round, drawing up holy water. It's said that those who drink the water will one day return to Kairouan - but diarrhoea would seem a much more likely result.

urther from Sousse. but worth the journey, are the caves and ruins of Cap Bon peninsula, the fantastic Roman sites near Le Kef, and the ancient ruins of Carthage, which spread among the modern villas north of Tunis.

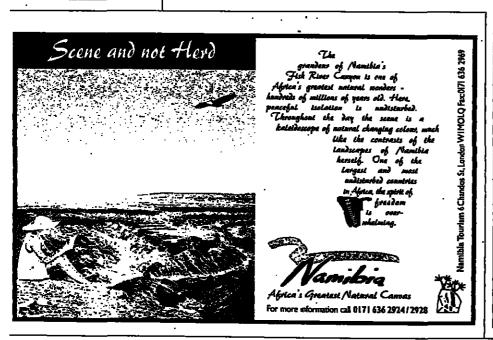
But before leaving Sousse, be sure to walk through the narrow stone door of the Ribat, a 9th-century fortified monastery, and climb to the top of the tower for a final view of the city. Below is the courtyard of the Great Mosque, and the fortified city wall. Beyond, ships lie tied up in port — and, once again, the beaches of the Med beckon.

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#### TUNISIA FACT BOX

Getting there: A return flight from London to Tunis with Air France (0181-742 6600) via Paris costs from £192, plus tax. Alitalia (0171-602 7111) via Rome from £179, plus tax. The nearest airport to Sousse is at Monastir

■ Airtours (01706 240033) offers seven-day packages to Tunisia in April from £159. Panorama Holidays (01273 206531) offers a seven-night stay at Les Citronniers Hotel in Hammamet for £149. In June, Wigmore Holidays (0171-486 4425) offers a week's half-board at the three-star Marhaba Hotel in Sousse from £329.

■ Getting around. Within Tunisia. louages (shared taxis) are the quickest and most convenient form of transport. The train is cheap and comfortable but slow and infrequent Sousse to Mahdia takes 90 minutes and costs about £3. The bus to Kairouan takes 90 minutes and costs about £2. Try to find a seat on the shady side.

What to eat and drink: One of the pleasures of a trip to Tunisia is the opportunity to sample French cuisine at a fraction of the usual price. Sousse is well-known for its seafood. Tunisian dishes worth trying include the thick chorba soups, couscous, the local semolina dish; merguez, a

shawarma kebabs. local wine is excellent.

Prices: Even in the centre of Tunis a good meal costs under £2 and a night's stay at large colonial-style hotels (such as the Claridge in Sousse) is about £5 per

■ Where to stay: Hotels cost from £10 per room at the Emira, 52 rue de France (22 63 25); Claridge, 10 Avenue Bourguiba (22 47 59). From £30 per room at

Nour Justinia, Avenue Hedi Chaker (22 68 66): Marhaba Club, Bld 7 Novembre (24 21 70).

Reading: Tunisia, The Rough Guide (£10.99); Rome in Africa. by Susan Raven (Routledge, £14.99).

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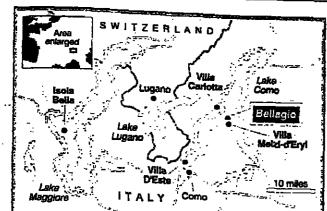
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One m corner - after

garde

# Italy: From the peaceful lakes of Como and Maggiore to the volcanic ruins and islands around Naples



# One more cornetto - after the garden

sola Bella is a pleasure galley of a garden. Its stone terrace bows out through the cool, blue water of Lake Maggiore carrying a revel of gods, goddesses and unicorns. Bishop Burnet, visiting the island in 1684, wrote that it was "worthy of fairies, who have transported here a portion of the ancient gardens of Hesperides". I had hoped it would have a kind of Disney appeal for my children, aged five and six. White peacocks strutted past terracotta pots spilling over with pomegranates but the children had eyes only for some mangey kittens.

It was the 17th-century Villa Carlotta on Lake Como which struck a note for the children, and there were pleas to return there, despite the ice-cream, which was "disgusting".

This end of Lake Como, one of the deepest lakes in Europe at 410m, with its rich soil and abundant fishing, has attracted settlements since the Bronze Age. The Plinys, elder and younger, had a villa here, the Comoedia, and today the lake edges are dotted with statusful villas.

My heart was stolen by the steep, southerly gardens at Villa Carlotta, although it was August and so there was not a flower to be seen on the 150 varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas. But the long citrus tunnel to the front of the house burgeoned, the beeches wept copiously and the tulip trees, oaks, cork, camphor and myrth trees were huge, magnificent specimens.

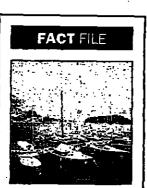
The children were mesmerised by Adamo Tadolini's (or school of) Eros and Psyche, whose delicate pure white marble forms came alive against the pale blue interior, and Francesco Hayez's romantic Julier's Last Kiss.

Yuk, he kissed her," was the

Our holiday was on the basis that the children would get lots of swimming but only one ice-cream a day, and I would get gardens. We stayed in Bellagio at the Belvedere, a family-run hotel on a spur jutting scenically out into the fork of Lake Como. I could have asked for no better. Even the Villa D'Este, a boat ride away and one of the world's most opulent hotels, did not have such fine views.

From our hotel dining room and the terrace restaurant below were heart-catching views across the lake to glacier-carved crags. Shelley's love affair with this lake came alive. The weather seemed to change by the second, transforming the hills and lake

quipment



Jetties on Lake Como

Thomson Holidays (0990 502565) offers seven nights at the Belvedere Hotel. Bellagio, from £431 (children from £224), with flights, transfers and half board.

■ Tourist information on 00 39 31 950 204.

Reading: The Italians, by Luigi Barzini (Penguin, £8.99). Eating Out in Italy, by Diane Seed (Rosendale Press, £11.95). Lombardy, Milan and the Italian Lakes, by Dana Facaros and Michal Pauls (Cadogan, £12.99). Italy: Eyewitness Travel Guide (Dorling Kindersley, £20).

from menacing to magical. Sometimes cloud would settle below us, giving a celestial view across whiteness; the sunset would usually bring a momentary stillness to the clatter of knives and forks and, when for two nights thunderstorms rent the velvet blue sky, guests stood in the rain to watch the heavenly light show.

wenty minutes walk from the hotel is the neo-Classical 19th-century Villa Melzid'Eryl, with an azalea plantation, a modest water garden and a blue and white gazebo with views across the lake. The garden is beside the municipal lido, which has a decent pizza and ice-cream parlour.

Our routine was simple: breakfast, then down the steep, cobbled streets past the bakery shops of such wondrous confections there was a pause for window shopping, past the shop selling expensive hand-made toys, past the Basilica of San Giacomo, where we lit candles and said a prayer, and out through the other side of the town to the harbour and a small pebble beach, where glamorous Italian mothers smoothed thighs



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Гошть.

picnic, then back to the hotel pool. In the afternoon the date with an ice-cream parlour took us back to the town, where the home-made ice-cream is outstanding. So, too, the shops. A photographer's shop with pictures of Bellagio in the 1950s — John Kennedy and troops of chic, sunglassed women who seem to have left their mark on the town: clothes shops breathtaking in the grandeur of their stock, and prices. Apart from the Venetian Riviera. glass frogs/cats/horses there Island, Cities

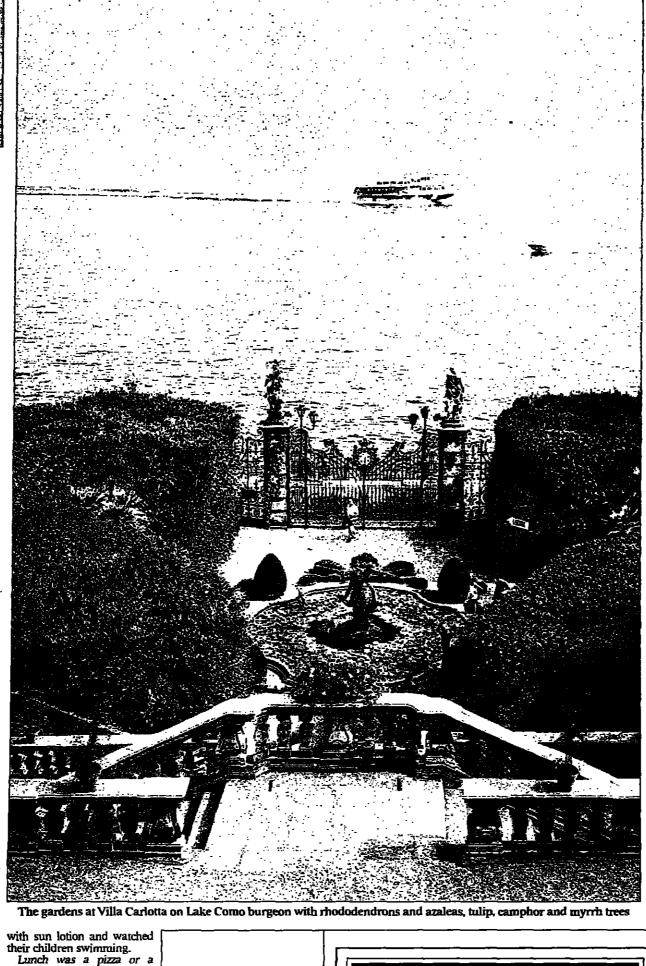
was some pretty, modern, silver jewellery and carnelian pendants, which seduced the children's holiday money.

Thomson Holidays arranges trips every day, at an extra cost. This is how we got to the gorgenus Isola Bella.

ranges trips every day, at an extra cost. This is how we got to the gorgeous Isola Bella, though I wished I hadn't put the children through the casch journey of several hours. That was the most ambitious outing on offer, and there were far easier trips of an hour or so to see chocolate factories or go to Switzerland. Next time.

JANE OWEN

The author was a guest of



# Popping about old Pompeii

y Italian barber's face erupted into asmile as wide as a comb. "Pompeii?" he said. "Then you must go to Ischia. It is an island with a volcano in the Bay of Naples. It is a paradise."

The next ten minutes were laced with tales of Lachryma Christi (wine), limoncello (liqueur), grapes, peaches, stewed rabbit, sulphur and thermal haths, Suddenly our family holiday, planned as a supplement to the Cambridge Latin Course, Part 1, seemed more enticing. We were headed towards a region still throbbing with volcanic pleasures.

The bus to Vesuvius leaves from Ercolano station and hairpins up the mountain, past prickly pears and vineyards. From the crater rim the view is astonishing. To the right, the sprawl of Naples. In front, the bay, curving left along the hilly Amalfi peninsula, with Capri at its rip, and on the other side Ischia, lost in the mist.

the mist.

Below, to the left, Pompeii is just a distant blur in the urban network. How could Vesuvius have spat as far as that? With little difficulty — in 1631, its ashes fell on Istanbul.

Revision note: on August 24, AD 79 a mushroom cloud burst from Vesuvius at noon and the sky went dark for days. Pompeii and Herculanaeum, its little neighbour, were obliterated. The Italians are still digging them out.

We started with Herculan-

We started with Herculanaeum, which the children enjoyed, cavorting around the
gardens and squirting fountain water. The town was
flooded by mud, so the villas
and bathhouses still have upper storeys and seem real. You
can amble round Herculanaeum in half an hour.

Pompeii, buried under ash

and pumice stone, is a vast, roofless maze. Bringing it to life requires an effort, on an August scorcher with your ragazzi begging for ice-cream. Look, look, imagine: the streets, the villas, Beware of the Dog mosaics, cartwheel ruts, casts of the dead, theatres, forums, the temple to Vespasian (sainted emperor who introduced the public lavatory), the big willies (sorry, good luck symbols). On which subject, outside a Roman brothel. I heard a

guide putting a group of nuns in the picture: ves ladies, these girls were the price of a glass of wine. The nuns just nodded. Like us, they were trying hard inwardly to digest.

A surprise, on the edge of Pompeii, is the Villa of the Mysteries, where the rich wall-paintings seem like a lost link to the Italian renaissance. We villa-hopped some more, until we felt sufficiently like dead Romans. Then we took the jerfoil to Ischia.

Green and fruitful, Ischia was once the culmination of the Grand Tour. It is higger than Capri and less glamorous — no Gracic Fields, just Ibsen, William Walton and Alan Clark (it's his favourite foreign place). There are pretty wine-growing villages, and little towns with beaches where men fashion wicker hobster pots and women bellow at sandy children from second-floor windows. No opera could wish for a better set, or chorus.

ominating the island is Mount Epomen, dormant but still hissing. Its fumaroles fuelled the Roman showers which you can still use, and on some beaches tlook for Marina dei Morontil, you can cook poratoes and eggs in the sand, or scorch your toes in the water.

scorch your toes in the water.

Epomeo erupted about a century after Pompeii, destroying all life on the island. Then, a century ago, it rose again and killed 3,000, in 15 seconds. Now droves of arthritic Germans throng the thermal hotels, but Ischia absorbs them all, with space to spare.

We stayed in Il Monastero, a hotel converted from a ruined monastery, perched high on a rocky outcrop. Above the hotel stands the ruined Castello Aragonese, at which Nelson took some pot shots. Below, in the crypt, are ranks of stone seats where the corpses of nuns — Poor Clares — were left upright to ruminate upon their maker.

nate upon their maker.

On the hotel's terrace overlooking the bay, we followed
their example each evening,
inspired by ice-cold limoncello. Ischia proves that Italians can shake off eruptions
when they want to; and after a
course of Pompeii it makes a
perfect summer pudding.

PETER BROWN

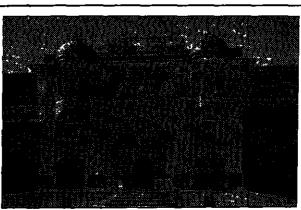
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Britain: Where to find outstanding inns in England; plus a pick of the best hostelries in Wales

# Drink in the atmosphere

hen guests at the Hoste Arms in their host, Paul hittome, "where else can we find an inn as good as this?" it set off an idea in his mind that reached fruition this week. The Great Inns of England consortium has launched with just eight members but Mr Whittome and his co-founder. Sir Thomas Ingilby, visited more than 300 establishments in their quest.

Criteria for entry have little to do with tourist board ratings, stars or crowns; the inns should be small and personal (the largest has 26 rooms, the smallest ten), and individually run with high-quality accommodation, a bar for locals as well as visitors to have a pint in, and a restaurant where, according to Mr Whittome, "vou never have to wear a tie or talk in hushed whispers over a sculpture on a plate".

The Hoste Arms is where Admiral Nelson, born in nearby Burnham Thorpe, collected his dispatches. Mr Whittome scraped back the chimney walls to their original 400year-old brick, removed the improvements" with which the previous brewery owners had tarted up the bars, and searched for solid old pub furniture around the country. Similar attention was then lavished on the 20 bedrooms.

as well as the menus which

Huntingdon

now feature oriental dishes as of the Boar's Head in Ripley. has also developed a clear view: "We'd like to represent well as Brancaster mussels, Burnham ovsters and casserole of rabbit with root vegetatraditional England, not one that is bottled or preserved. bles — with results that were duly rewarded. The Hoste British inns have moved on Arms became Egon Ronay's and now offer fine wine, even Pub of the Year for 1996 while avant garde food in informal the current Which? Hotel Guide, never noted for its While the architectural merhyperbole, describes it as a "characterful inn run with

passion and commitment".

After his search with Mr

Whittome, Sir Thomas Ingilby

its of the eight listed inns may vary from the mainly 18thcentury red-brick Handred House in Shropshire, which would be easy to pass without Guests can take falconry, watercolour, drawing or printing courses at the 400-year-old Falcon Hotel in Castle Ashby. Northamptonshire

second glance, to the chococharms of Lynlate-box mouth's Rising Sun, and interior styles range from the sturdy robustness of the Hoste Arms to the patrician elegance of the Boar's Head, the infectious enthusiasm of the proprietors, mostly the owners, for their own intimate and fascinating little bit of English local history, is an encouraging

common denominator. On Yorkshire's Ripley Castle Estate, where the Ingilby

family have lived since 1325, the Boar's Head served as a coaching inn on the Leeds to Edinburgh run, but was closed in 1919 by Sir William Ingilby, unhappy at the way his workers were lured from church. The drought lasted for BMWs, We're an old inn, not a 75 years until Sir Thomas recountry house hotel." It picked opened the inn, adding antiques from Ripley Castle and luring chefs from the Waterup the Egon Ronay Pub of the Year Award in the 1997 Guide. side Inn at Bray and the

Chester Grosvenor. The 14th-century Inn at

double rooms cost £55-£90 per Whitewell in Lancashire's night per room, with full Trough of Bowland is still the property of the Queen as part English breakfast, and evening meals £18-£25, though of the Duchy of Lancaster. Its idiosyncratic proprietor, the most of the irms keep costs former Lancashire cricketer down by offering cheaper Richard Bowman, says: "I mini-breaks of two nights or don't want a car park full of more, sometimes themed.

watercolour The most celebrated literary pedigree among the Great Inns is claimed by the 14thfalconry.

century thatched smugglers inn, The Rising Sun at Lynmouth, where R.D. Blackmore wrote part of Lorna Doone and Shelley spent his honeymoon with his 16-yearold bride Harriet in 1812. The

ly been renovated. History and high-quality accommodation — king size beds and four posters, TVs and trouser presses are pretty standard fittings — don't come cheap. The Great Inns brochure surprisingly doesn't quote prices, and its whimsical style may irritate practically minded holidaymakers; but

other 15 bedrooms have recent-

a smaller, traditional Cotswold inn. While the Great Inns bro-

**GREAT INNS OF ENGLAND** 

■ The Hoste Arms, Burnham Market, Norfolk (01328 738777). The Boar's Head, Ripley, Yorkshire (01423 771888). The Rising Sun, Lynmouth, Devon (01598 753223). The Old Bridge Hotel, Huntingdon, Cambs (01480 452681).

The Falcon Hotel, Castle Ashby, Northants (01604 696200). The Inn at Whitewell, Whitewell, Lancs (01200 448222). The Lamb Inn, Burford, Oxfordshire (01993 823155).

Ripley Castle, Near Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 3AY.

The Hundred House Hotel, Norton, Shropshire (01952 730353).

Free copies of the brochure, from: The Great Inns of England,

At the 400-year-old Falcon Hotel in Castle Ashby, Northamptonshire, guests can join or drawing weeks, or take courses in

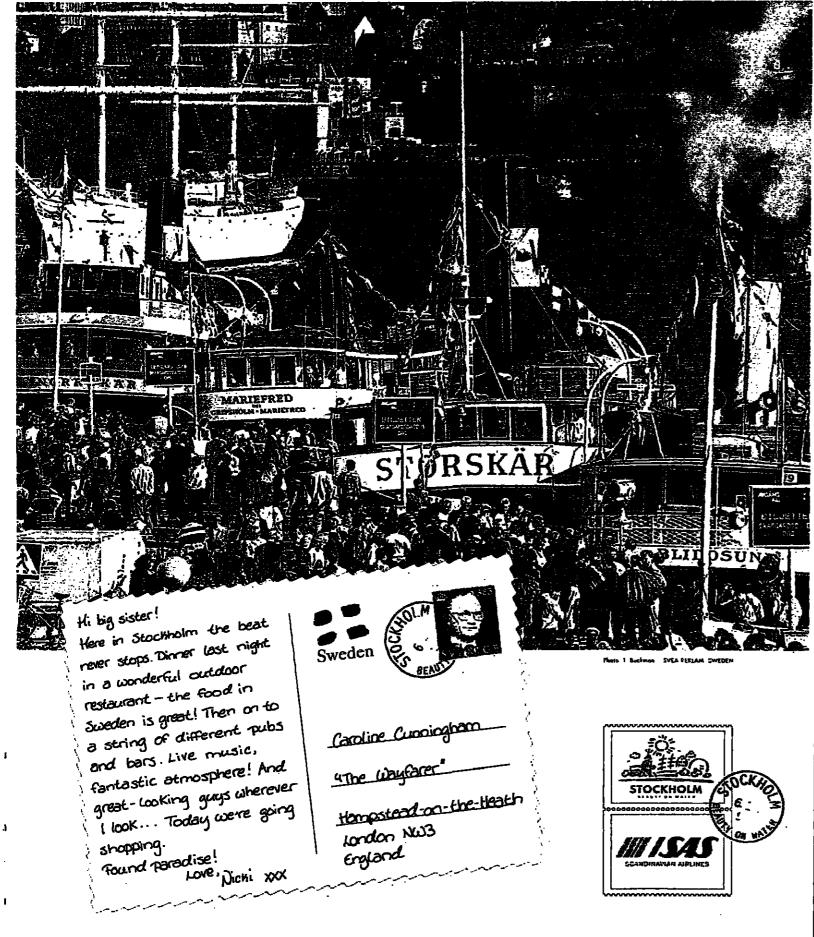
The other two inns in the consortium are the Old Bridge Inn in Cambridgeshire, good for food and wine, and the Lamb in Oxfordshire

chure may fail to indicate prices, it doesn't flaunt the clutch of awards its members have won throughout the 1990s. "We'd like to get away from hotel clichés about views and renowned cuisine," Sir Thomas says.

Buzzwords here are character, quality, fun and informality. Is it perhaps rather pressing, though, that so far the Great Inns of England are only in single figures

JILL CRAWSHAW

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# On Borrowed time

t the time that George nothing better than to fetch up in some village inn, where he would settle by a welcoming fire, order a quart of ale and engage in lively conversations

with the natives. Commendably, the erudite Norfolk chronicler had taken the trouble to master the Welsh language, but such application is no longer demanded of the casual visitor eager to share in the general

conviviality.

The following establishments are just the kind Borrow might, and in some cases did, patronise. They are essentially "locals", frequented by the natives, but offering any traveller, who might drop in for a drink and find the company congenial, the possi-bility of a night's lodging. All prices are for single B&B.

Quite the most unusual is the Abbey Hotel (01873 890487 — £21) overlooking the mountain road between Hay and Abergavenny. Situated in the prior's house among the ruins of the 12th century Llanthony Abbey, the pub is in a vaulted crypt at the bottom of a flight of stone steps.

On a recent visit the dimly-lit interior was black with clerics attending an ecclesiastical convention. Sadly, the hotel is open only at weekends

until the end of March.
Roger Thomas, co-author of
Great Little Places, an annual publication listing 50 small. friendly places to stay in the Principality, makes no apologies for recommending his local, the Bear in Crickhowell (01873 810408 — from £42).

In 1993 the Bear was named best pub in Britain and the cobbled forecourt and a 19thcentury timetable displayed in the bar are reminders that this 500-year-old building was formerly a coaching inn on what is now the A40. In its lowbeamed bar you are likely to find visitors from the United States and Japan mingling with the locals.



The landlord of the Griffin Inn at Brecon is a fishing fan

The slate-floored bar of the Pen-y-Gwryd inn, near Capel Curig (01286 870211 — £20) in the heart of Snowdonia, doubles as a mountain rescue post. It was here the 1953 conquest of Everest was plotted and team members who scrawled their autographs on the bar ceiling for posterity included Edmund Hillary and John Hunt.

Customers at the Griffin at Llyswen (01874 754241 — E34.50) are left in no doubt over the sporting preferences of proprietor Richard Stockton. Rooms are named after fishing flies and the country inn theme is carried through into the kitchen, where traditional local ingredients, of

course, include salmon. The Woolpack Inn (0169) 718382 — £28) at Glyn Ceiriog, just south of Llangollen provided Borrow with shelter from the rain in 1854. The landlady had a wooden leg and was extremely courteous. Her successor, Sandra Usher, has two perfectly good legs but is no less attentive. Her partner, Peter, the chef. makes extensive use of produce from

neighbouring farms. Samuel Johnson and Dickens were among guests at the Olde Bull's Head in Beaumaris on the Isle of Anglesey (01248 810239 — £45), but Oliver Cromwell's forces are said to have been less considerate and commandeered the place during the Civil War.

As a Welsh speaker, Robert Hughes at the Penhelig Arms: at Aberdovey (01654 767215 --£39) is something of a curiosity in the Principality's licensing trade, which is dominated by what Borrow would have termed Saxons. It is the AA Welsh hotel of the year.

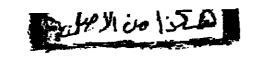
It is ten years since Bob and Jane Evans resurrected the 450-year-old Village Green at Trellech (01600 860119 -£22.50) near Monmouth. They bought it from the Official Receiver and spent £250,000 refurbishing it.

To find a hotel in Hay-on-Wye that on closer inspection does not turn out to have been converted into a bookshop is something of a relief. Kilverts (01497 821042 - £25) survives and enjoys a good local trade always a recommendation. Festival of literature regulars book for the following year before checking out. Borrow was impressed with

the Grapes at Maentwrog in Gwynedd (01766 590208 — £25) where he fell into discussion with a guest on the subject of predestination. What neither of them could have foreseen was the fact that the inn was destined 140 years later to win the title of best free house in Britain.

ALAN ROAD ■ For a free copy of Great Little Places, phone 01686 668030.





Britain: A report from the replica of Captain Cook's Endeavour as it heads for a voyage around these shores

# Cook's tour is the sail of the century



Captain Cook portrait, 1776

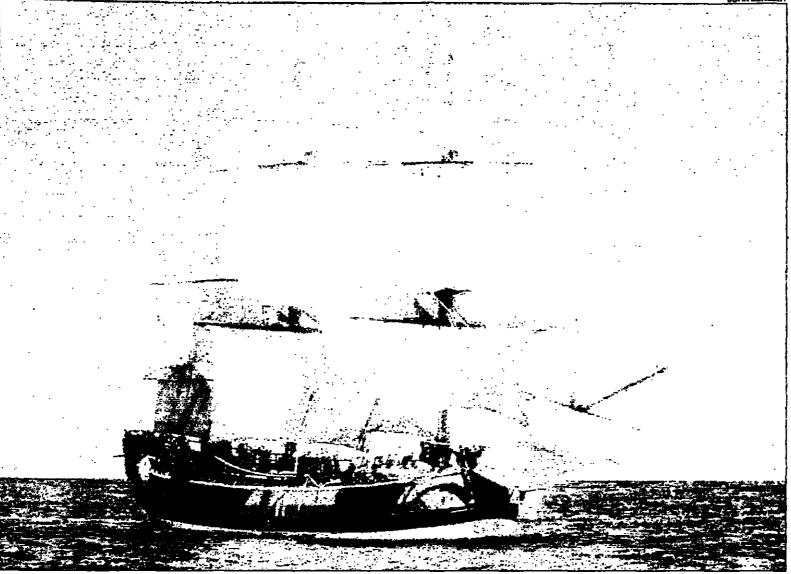
our left Plymouth gust 25, 1768, the ship had a crew of 94. At the end of the three-year expedition only 41 sailors had survived to tell the tale. Our ship, an authentic replica of Cook's Endeavour, measuring only 109ft by 29ft. was built from the original plans kept at the National Maritime Museum in London. So far, since leaving Fremantle, Australia, five months ago, the entire crew of 52 men and women from Australia, New Zealand, Britain and South Africa are still very much alive.

The ship is now heading for Britain and will be on view from March to October all around our coast. Indeed, tallship enthusiasts can book themselves on to the Endeavour for a three to 11-day

The Endeavour is operated in the same way as in Cook's day. We use wind power, but have modern engines to boost our speed if the wind drops and to steady our passage in a storm. Life below decks is much the same as the original. The 36-strong amateur crew sleep in hammocks — just like Cook's sailors - crowded together in the lower deck, with head height of only 4ft 6in. The 14 professional crew sleep in the cabins that were occupied by Cook's sailmaker. bosun, clerk, gunner and

The ship's master, Chris Blake and a party of three to £25,000 each for the entire in the more spacious gentlemen's cabins on the after fall deck. These cabins were originally occupied by a Mr Green, an astronomer, and Joseph Banks, who led the scientific party. However, unlike Cook. who had to rely on the sun, the stars and his nose to chart his passage, our captain has the latest satellite communicanons, weather fax, collision radar and a Global Position-

While Cook pioneered the use of lime juice to combat



Wind power: the 20th-century Endeavour, now sailing between Tenerife and Madeira; it left Fremantle, Australia, nearly five months ago



Replica of the cabin used by Mr Green, an astronomer

#### **ENDEAVOUR FACT FILE**

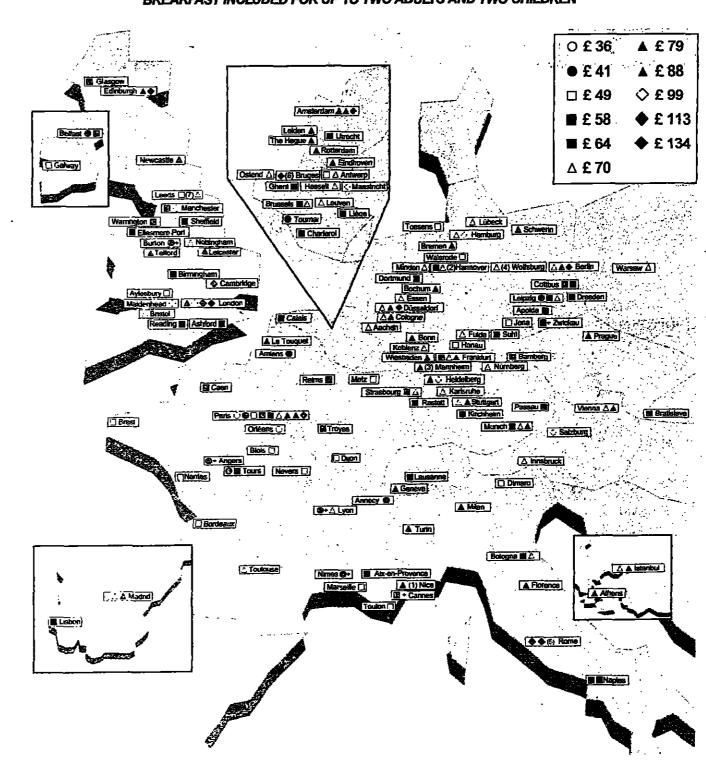
■ When it reaches London on March 25, the Endeavour will travel under Tower Bridge in full sail and firing its cannon. At Greenwich it will be open to the public, dressed with artefacts as if Cook and his crew had gone ashore. Visitors will be able to see the conditions under which Cook's pioneering voyages of exploration were

■ To coincide with the Endeavour's arrival at Greenwich, the National Maritime Museum is to stage a Captain Cook exhibition in the Queen's House and a Cook statue will be unveiled in the museum grounds.

The Endeavour will be open to the public at Greenwich from March 28 to April 13. The ship will then call at various ports: Great Yarmouth (April 19-28): Boston (May 2-5); Whitby, home port of the original Endeavour (May 10-15); Leith, Edinburgh (May 24-June I); Inverness (June 7-15); Greenock (June 28-July 6); Liverpool (July 11-20); Fishguard (July 26-August 3); Falmouth (August 9-17); Plymouth (August 23-31); Weymouth (September 6-9); Brighton (September 13-21); St Helier, Jersey (September 27-October 5) and St Malo (October 7-12), befo returning to Plymouth on October 17, where it will be prepared for a voyage to the United States.

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scurvy, and was the first to make a long voyage and not lose a man to this disease, his crew often had to endure the delights of salted meat, fermenting apples and biscuits riddled with weevils. Hidden away in the hold of our ship. where the original Endeavour stored supplies for its threeyear voyage, we have a modern electric galley, a well stocked freezer, a proper mess enable our chef to serve up three hearty meals a day - but we do suffer a hardship that Cook's sailors did not have to bear. This is a dry ship. No alcohol is allowed, unless the

cabin for a token glass of wine. We are observing an 18thcentury way of life, not 20thcentury. Life aboard this ship is simple: it consists of sailing. working, eating, sleeping and. yarning with your mates. We read, paint, write, sing or play any musical instruments we have brought on board.

captain invites guests to his

On a typical day at sea, we rise at seven, store the hammocks and eat breakfast. The morning programme usually involves sail handling, ship's husbandry and lectures. Professor Tim Beaglehole, the Cook authority and publisher of The Journals of Captain James Cook, is on board as resident historian. After lunch our time is

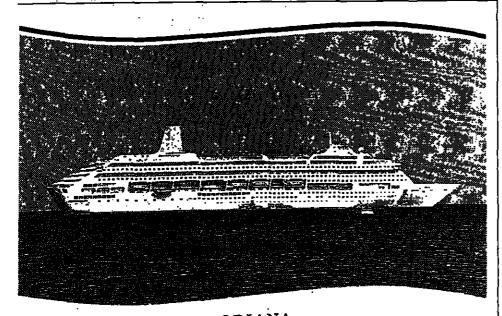
usually devoted to ship maintenance - tarring, rigging, sail and rope work, sailing and painting. Towards the end of the day, sail is usually shortened for the night. The evening meal is served and hammocks are slung before we turn in at 9\_30pm.

Keeping watch continues round the clock. In this part of the world the warm, clear night is enough to make gate the world.

Tonight, God willing, we should be safely anchored in Funchal harbour, Madeira. On Wednesday the ship sets sail on the last leg of its journey to Britain, arriving for Easter. More than two centu ries on, the Endeavour is coming home.

RONALD GRIBBLE

■ The author flew to Tenerife courtesy of Iberia Airlines (0171-830 0011) and will return from Portugal (0171-828 0362). Members of the public who would like to join the ship on its uld ring the Endeavour Foundation (0181-293 5522). Fees are from £900 to £1,200 for a three to four-day trip to £4,400 for an 11-day wyage.



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Breaks for

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Skiing: When family holidays become cripplingly expensive, an all-inclusive break may be the answer

# Clowning in Chamonix

omeone must have heard that my French was getting rusty. Last off to Club Med in Chamonix to see if its "all-inclusive" ski holiday was value for money and how I got on with the French in their oldest ski resort. Chamonix lies close to the start of the Vallée Blanche, had always wanted to tackle.

With many European lift passes now costing up to £150 a week, ski schools about £90 and the basic cost of flights and a week's half board holiday at least £500 to £800, family skiing is now cripplingly expensive. Some tour opera-tors such as Club Med are. therefore, packaging an all-inclusive holiday which covers all the above, a full lunch on the mountain, wine with the midday and evening meals. and child-care. The extras are hire of skis and boots and pre/post dinner drinks. Club Med says that its all-

inclusive holiday in Chamonix works out at £761, while the full cost of a similar seven-day holiday with a rival operator could be more than £1,000.

Traditionally, Club Med conjures up visions of straw huts by beaches, people paying with beads and gastronomic French food - chic but expensive and unnerving for Brits with rusty O-level French. But now the club wants to show that it is international, affordable and can offer different types of holiday.

large, rather basic hotel - no television sets or minibars in rooms - right by the small Savoy nursery slope. It has a Baby and Mini Club so that parents can leave their children with professionals during the day. There is also a large underground theatre for live entertainment in the evenings. young gentils organisateurs — ski guides, child minders and reps - who clearly enjoy the singing and dancing, mime shows and skits which are semi-professionally staged

Although it tries hard to be pan-European, Club Med in Chamonix retains a strong



#### **CLUB MED FACT FILE**

Club Med. 106 Brompton Road, London SW3 LJ (0171-581 1161). Prices for its village in Chamonix, France adult all-inclusive price from E761; babies from E116; children six to nine from E645; 50 per cent off children's prices on certain dates; reductions for family rooms.

M Other "family" tour operators: Ski Esprit, Oaklands, Reading Road North, Fleet, Hampshire GUI3 8AA (01252 616789); Ski Famille, Unit 9, Chesterton Mill, French's Road, Cambridge CB4 3NP (01223 363777); Ski Hillwood, 2 Field End Road, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 2QL (0181-866 9993).

Gallic streak, which may or may not be to everyone's liking. Most of its gentils organisateurs speak good English but what makes the village different is the emphasis on keeping children happy. The club's resident clown/ animateur, Mario, would often wander around the main dining room (there was also a smaller, quieter one), either on stilts or dressed as a hairy waitress, dropping plates and clowning it to screams of delight from the children.

fter a faltering start in speaking French, I was relieved to find Club Med herding This is put on by the club's all the English speaking guests (gentils membres) into one group. By then we had all been fitted with skis and boots. and had been asked to estimate our skiing ability.

We were then taken up in the bubble lift to the main skiing area above Chamonix at Planpraz, where the Club Med instructors checked each

guest's ability and we were introduced to Sylphie, our French ski instructress. The drawback of skiing in

Chamonix is that the ski areas are dispersed up and down the valley and not yet linked by lifts. Serious piste bashers will ski out the Brevent and Planpraz area in a day, and it is annoying that the Flégère area, the next up the valley, has not been linked to Planpraz. This is where an allinclusive holiday comes in handy, because Club Med buses its guests to Flegere and, later in the week, to Argentière, a far more exciting and bigger ski area overlook-

ing the Vallée Blanche.

While the skiing above Chamonix is passable, it is the start of the 20km descent down the Vallée Blanche. This turned out to be an expensive non-event. It costs £62 to get up to the L'Aiguille du Midi, at 3.842m, and then to be guided down the run. The panoramas at L'Aiguille du Midi are breathtaking, but you are then



roped to the next person to walk down a 100m ridge to the beginning of the piste down to the Glacier du Geant. From then on the skiing is mostly gentle blue runs until every skier on the mountain converges on a narrow couloir down the side of a huge cascade of vast ice blocks. This

the run down to the Gare du Montenvers is unexceptional. Back in Chamonix, you are

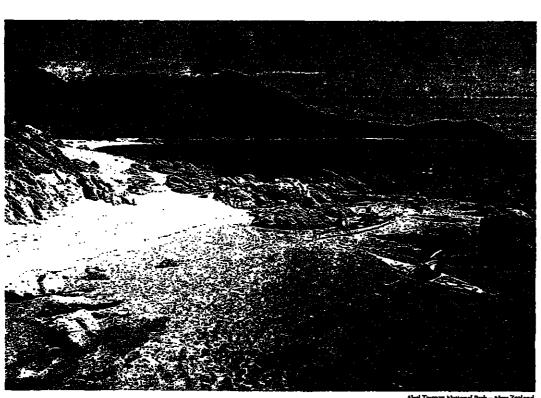
again reminded what a beautiful old town this is, with its Alpine Museum, fast-flowing river and blazing gas torches which light up smart restau-rants and interesting old

not be a Courchevel or Val d'Isère, it has a charm of its own and Club Med's allinclusive holiday with superb food was good value.

ALASTAIR BRETT • The author was guest of

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#### Answers from page 25 **BRETWALDA**

(b) The title given in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle to Egbert of Wessex (802-839) and seven earlier English kings, who exercised a supremacy, often rather shadowy, over other English kings south of the Humber. The title probably means "overlord of the Brits". It was sometimes assumed by

WORD WATCHING

(a) A title conferred on several British chiefs in times of great danger when they were invested with supreme power. Especially, in Arthurian romances, to Uther Pendragon, father of King Arthur. The word is Welsh pen head + dragon (referring to the war chief's dragon standard). It corresponded to the Roman dux bellorum.

(a) Educated jesters and buffoons who wrote ribald Latin verse, and who were noted for riotous behaviour. They flourished mainly in the L2th and 13th centuries. The word comes from the Old french goliard a glutton, derived from the Latin gula a throat, gluttony.

(c) A stately Spanish dance of the 16th and 17th centuries, said to be so called because in it the dancers stalked like peacocks (Latin pavones), the gentlemen with their long robes of office, the ladies with trains like peacocks tails. The pavan, like the minuet, ended with a quick movement called the gailland, a sort of gavotte. The etymology is uncertain, and it is also suggested that the name is from Padova (Padua).



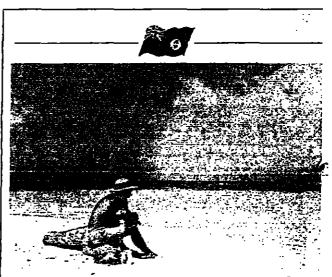
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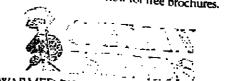


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#### Breaks for art lovers

PAINTING holidays in the UK and abroad to destinations as far apart as Andalucia and Bali are listed in the 1997 Painting Holiday Directory, edited by Anne Hedley. There is even a painting holiday for gourmets based on a former Tarnaise farmhouse at Les Pradailles near Toulouse-Lautree's birthplace and museum at Albi, with visits to selected restaurants each day after work. The cost, without transport, is £445 full board for a week.

The white villages and flowers of the sierras are the subjects of Spirit of Andalucia's weekly courses, costing £750 and based near Gaucin, with tutor Jenny Jowett in attendance. In June, Andrew John's painting holiday aboard the 30-metre barge Athos meanders along the 300-year-old Canal du Midi, through Langue doc's wine country and medieval villages, costing £650 full board

for six nights.
The 1997 Painting Holiday Directory (PHD Publications, £4.50) can be obtained from bookshops. or post free from 01830 540319.

#### That trips

NEW charter flights next winter have considerably trimmed longhaul destination prices from Thomson Holidays (0990 502399). Though the Far East has so far lagged behind the Caribbean in both price and popularity, our largest tour operator hopes that direct flights (13 hours) into Phuket, avoiding the traffic and pollution of Bangkok, will open up Thai resorts to winter sunseekers. A two-week all-inclusive holiday at a four-star hotel on Koh Phi Phi island will be under £1,000, with 12 nights B&B on Phuket and Koh Samui starting at £639 and £729

respectively. New winter charters to Mexico have reduced prices to £569 for two weeks (in the simple but well placed two-star Playa Los Arcos Hotel in Puerto Vallarta). Good news also is the choice of regional airports; it will be possible to fly to Florida from 12 UK airports, including Aberdeen.

#### Easter feasts

ANYONE who has missed out on a traditional Easter holiday can sample the Greek Orthodox version which falls on April 25-27 this year. A highlight of the Cypriot calendar, where it is known as



This painting holiday at Le Petit Bois Gleu in Brittany, France is just one of the many worldwide trips listed in a new directory

Lambri, villages take to the countryside for picnics and feasting during week-long celebrations. Argo Holidays (0171-331 7070) offers renovated old stone village houses in western Cyprus near the Adriatic wilderness of the Akamas peninsula and Paphos forests, from £365 per week, including flights and car hire. Villas with pools are also available.

#### Bird tracking

AN ESCORTED 22-day "Ulti-mate Ornithological Tour" based on Irian Jaya, the remote western half of New Guinea, a land of primary rainforests, uninhabited islands and isolated Stone Age tribes, is an adventurous offering from Reef and Rainforest Tours (01803 866965). Inspired by Sir David Attenborough's Attenborough in Paradise television programme, there will be nocturnal jungle walks and dawn pa-trols in search of birds of paradise and the other 650 or so species that can be found here, as well as 150 mammal species, 580 amphibians and reptiles, and 9.000 plants - including 2,700 orchids. Price, excluding international flights, is £1,880. Part of the proceeds goes towards helping local village communities.

JILL CRAWSHAW'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

On another natural history holiday, Quentin Bloxham, director of Jersey Zoo, leads "The Aye-Aye and I Tour" following in the footsteps of the late Gerald Dur-rell in Madagascar. This tour costs from £1,894.

#### Hide away

FAR from the madding crowds in the popular Turkish resorts. Savile Row Tours (0171-625 3001) has opened its own exclusive hideaway, Club Savile, at the head of the Kas peninsula. The selfcatering accommodation in penthouses and apartments comes with luxuries rare in Turkey television, bathrobes, hampers and dishwashers, and an à la

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carte restaurant. Such pampering does not come cheap: one week costs £439-£569, including flights and two full-day excursions, though the two-week prices, £539-£009, make more financial sense.

#### Timeless treats

THE FIRM Simply Tuscany & Umbria (0181-995 8277) has unusual farmhouses, villas and hotels all within easy reach of Florence or Siena, San Gimignano or Assisi. In the Antico Borgo San Lorenzo, off the medieval Via Francigena (Mass is still said in the 10th-century Romanesque chapel every week), stone farmhouses have been converted into cottages and apartments round a pool. A week's self-catering costs from £395 per person, including flights and car hire.

A 3rd-century BC temple and Roman well were uncovered during renovations to a ruined 18thcentury farmhouse near Assisi. now the family-run Santa Maria

degli Ancillotti country hotel which offers traditional food, panoramic views and peace and quiet. Mountain bikes are provided to explore the nature reserve of Monte Subasio, Assisi or Perugia. The price is £672 for a week's B&B with flights and car hire.

#### On the ball

KEEN golfers heading for Ireland may find it profitable to acquire the Golf Directory, from Open Fairways, which offers 250 complimentary green fees at more than 85 of Ireland's top courses, as well as savings of 50 per cent on accommodation at 40 hotels, and a guide to B&B accommodation. At the Portmarnock Links, for example, where green fees are £45 a round, four can play for the price of two, a saving of £90. Using the directory, you can play more than 40 courses for £10 or less. The Golf Directory costs E52.50; further information from Open Fairways (01247 471277).

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# Maintaining those high Cs

Charm, calm and cuisine are top of the list for approved Relais & Châteaux hotels

The hotel chain Relais & Châteaux is on the move. This group of luxury hotels, converted castles and abbeys, and exquisite little inns has a guide which has now become wholly international, with editions in English, French and German. Until last year, British travellers had to steer their way among the pages and paragraphs in French to find the information in their own language (though some will no doubt regret not having the racy French version to read as well).

The guide is in a smaller format and is easier to carry, and Relais & Châteaux has reduced the number of symbols indicating the different kinds of hotel from five to three. Now there is a blue fleur-de-lys indicating a fine, comfortable house in the distinctively personal Relais & Chateaux style, a gold fleur-de-lys indicating the refined comfort of a superb residence, and a purple one for the 15 de luxe hotels that belong to the chain. The chefwith-his-hat, for outstanding res-taurants and hotel dining rooms, survives unchanged.

This year there are 431 hotels and restaurants in 45 countries in the guide. It is not easy for a hotel to get in. The chain requires new members to match up to its standards in all the five Cs. character, courtesy,

calm, charm and cuisine. Twenty-one new members qualified for the 1997 guide. They include the Auberge et Clos des Cimes at St Bonnet-le-Froid, whose bedrooms

where you are promised an out-standing bottle of Crozes-Hermitage with dinner.

For the first time there is an entry from Zimbabwe: the Imba Matombo Lodge in the hills near Harare. But the new list is in general westward-looking, with three hotels and one restaurant (the Aureole in New York) from the United States and entries from Mexico, Colombia and Ecuador.

The chain has also gone on to the Internet, and has an e-mail address. Special packages are available at some hotels, with a fixed price for a double room, dinner and breakfast. Readers of The Times have enthusiastically taken up previous such offers: some like to have a luxurious night at a hotel on their way elsewhere, and these offers will especially suit them.

New marketing methods often mean changes in the product being sold — maybe for the worse. Will this happen to Relais & Chateaux?

The answer is that it is unlikely. because all its hotels and restaurants are privately owned, with idiosyncratic proprietors who like to go their own way. Nothing is asked of them except that they keep up their standards and their indi-viduality. The guide shows they are doing just that.

#### **DERWENT MAY**

• Internet: http://www.integru.fr/ relaischateaux. E-mail address: resarc@relaischateaux.fr. London WIX 2AB (0171-287 0987).



Imba Matombo Lodge, set in the hills near Harare, Zimbabwe

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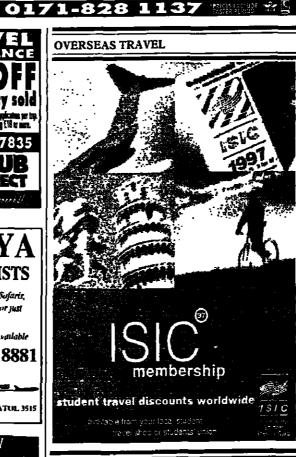












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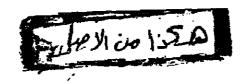
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ASSET TOTAL

#### by Raymond Keene

GARRY Kasparov's extraordinary results in the Las Palmas and Linares tournaments, where Karpov, Kramnik, Anand, Polgar and Topalov all fell under his scythe, are likely to catapult him to an unprecedentedly high international rating of 2820. Of the leading grandmasfers, only lvanchuk held his own with the champion. drawing one, losing one, but also winning one in their three games.

Whatever the younger genera-tion did, the eynosure of all eyes was bound to be his clash against his supreme rival Anatoly Karpov. The two had not played since early 1994, when Karpov achieved the greatest tournament triumph of his career, winning the Linares competition by a massive margin. Both men lay claim to the World Championship; together or separately they have dominated the thess landscape for more than two decades, and Kasparov, in particuiar, was out for revenge.

White: Kasparov: Black: Karpov Las Palmas, 1996 Nimzo-Indian Defence

N16 2 c4 Bb4 4 Qc2

One of Kasparov's favourites against the Nimzo-Indian, though he also defeated Kramnik at Linares with 4 e3. The point of the text is to acquire the bishop pair, without allowing his pawn structure to be damaged.

... 0-0 5 a3 Cxc3 b6 7 Bgt e3 d6 9 f3 Bxc3+ Bg5 f3 Bb7 Nbd7 11 dxc5 bxc5 12 Be2 Qb6 13 0-0

The position is in dynamic equilibrium. White has, indeed, gained the bishop pair, but Black is well entrenched in the centre.

14 Rad1 Bc6 15 Nt2 h6 16 Bh4 Ba4 17 Rd2 Bb3 18 Ng4

An unconventional idea which weakens his own pawn structure. Nevertheless, the open f-file which soon arises, does grant White significant attacking chances.

Nxg4 19 fxg4 Rab8 hxg5 21 Bxg5 Rb7 Re8 23 Bh4 Nf8 24 Bg3 Rd8 25 Bh4

Here Black could have repeated moves with 25 ... Res, when White may have nothing better than 26 Bg3 with a likely draw. In the heat of battle, Karpov tries for more.

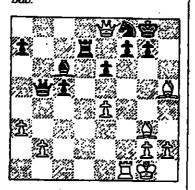
26 cxd5 Rxd5 27 s4 28 Qxd2 8s4 29 BhS

A more combative choice is 20 go, which obliges White to sacrifice material for unclear compensation after either: (a) 30 Bf6 Nh7 31 e5 Qxb2 32 Qd8+ Nf8 33 Bf3 Rd7; or (b) 30 Qh6 Nh7 31 e5 Qxb2 32 Bxg6 fxg6 33 Qxg6+ Rg7 34 Qxe6+ Kh8.

Qb5 31 Qd8 Bc6

Karpov has completely missed his footing. It would have been better at move 30 to capture White pawn on b2. Now he falls under a heavy

33 Qe8 - with the threat of



33 . . . Qxf1+. A convoluted way of trading queens, but if 33 ... Qb7, to lend added protection to the f7pawn, then 34 Bd6 Rxd6 35 Bxf7+ still wins for White.

34Kxf1 36Bf2 Rd1+ 358xd1 8xe8 Bb5+ 378e2 8xe2

Although Black has escaped into an endgame, the weakness of his queenside pawns, lying in the direct path of White's dangerous bishop, remains an insuperable obstacle.

39 Kd3 a6 40 Bg1 41 exf5 exf5 42 Kc4 43 Kxc5 Nd3+ 44 Kb6

Black resigns.

#### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene Black to play. This position is from the game Dementiev Dzindzihashvili, USSR 1972, The queen and knight are well known as a powerful attacking force as the two pieces complement each other very well. How did Black demonstrate this here?

Send your answer on a postcard to The Times. 1 Pennington Street. London El-9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the 3 Staunton Society, which includes 2 a free invitation to the annualdinner at Simpson's-in-the-Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Qh6 Last week's winner: D. Burnett,



#### PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from The Strand Magazine (reproduced from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection. Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 42, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London Ěl 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, March 12.





"Clone forty of him will you, I need a new fur coat

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by P. Cunningham of Southend-on-Sea, Essex

#### **WORD** WATCHING

#### By Philip Howard

BRETWALDA

a. East Anglia b. An Overlord c. The Old Wessex Forest

PENDRAGON

a. Warlord b. A swan-dragon monster

c. The fifth actor **GOLIARDS** 

a. Clowns

b. High books c. Lincolnshire dykes

PAVAN a. A sweet bun

b. A skylight c. A dance

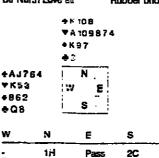
Answers on page 22

#### BRIDGE

#### by Robert Sheehan

DISCARDING is one of most difficult parts of the game. There are many considerations, but above all you must have a plan. One essential is to count the declarer's certain tricks; then if you see he can make the contract if he has a particular card, assume your partner has that card. Here is an

Oir North Love all Rubber bridge



Contract: SNT Ey South. Lead: the six of spades

Dummy's ten of spades wins the first trick, East playing the two. At trick two declarer plays a club to his jack, and your queen. It seems the best chance is that your partner has three spades, so you continue with the four of spades. Your partner follows with the three, declarer wins in hand with the queen and runs his clubs. He turns out to have started with A K J 10 4 2. You have to discard

diamonds he is home, so you must

place your partner with that card. You can't afford to throw a spade, else declarer may set up a trick in diamonds, with the defence not being able to cash enough spades to set the contract.

Hence your last five cards should be three spades, the king of hearts and one diamond. You have to hope your partner has the queen of hearts. That is the successful defence - the full deal:

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four times. What do you keep?

This is how you should think. Declarer has two tricks in spades and five in clubs, along with the ace of hearts. If he has the ace of

Notice that East should be thinking in a similar way. When West shows out on the third club East can tell that declarer has eight tricks, and so to beat the contract East has to assume West has the ace of spades and the king of hearts. Thus East should keep two hearts and a spade along with Ax of diamonds as his last five cards.

♣AKJ 1042

Some duplicate players sitting West would tell you after the hand "I knew that my partner had the ace of diamonds because his three on the second round of spades was suit-preference". That is thinking on the wrong lines - the reason West assumes East has the ace of diamonds is that otherwise declarer would be making his contract. East's signalling is irrelevant.

#### COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

PREPARE to buckle your swash for Admiral Sea Battles, conjuring up a pirates of the Caribbean ride with crews in frilly blousons and the odd black eye patch. Taking control of the open seas needs strategy and cunning as much as the brute force of an Armada made up of triple-decked battleships. galleons, galleys and paddle

Playing against the computer in various devilishly hard missions or head-to-head against human opponents - over networks or, thankfully, on a single PC — you start with a limited budget to buy your formidable flotilla, from a choice of 11 sailing vessels. Smaller boats travel furthest but crumple more quickly under attack. Ports, where ships are made, and forts can also be built strategically along coastlines to improve your odds though neither comes cheap.

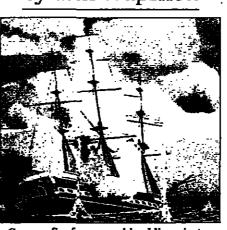
Gameplay is turn-based between you and opponents. Orders are issued to each of your units, telling them where to move or whether to pull alongside enemy ships and fire broadsides or, if your crew are not on their last sea-legs, attempt to board. The latter, when successful. adds that vessel to your own fleet. Each ship can take only so much flack before sinking, though if they manage to limp back to a home port they are fully repaired. Weather also plays its part in the ensuing battles as sudden storms whip up to blow vessels wildly off-course. throwing best laid schemes into disarray.

The large expanse of sea may be boring to look at for hours on end, but it is regularly broken up by dolphins and flicking whale tails. Ships make their moves with pleasing whooshes in calm seas, while satisfying cannonfire rumbles rule the waves as fleets become embroiled in battle. Seeing ships sink is the highlight in this subtle war sim, from 21st Century on PC CD-Rom.

Next up, due by the early summer, will be Admiral Ancient Ships. This title looks to the ancient civilisations of Egypt. Greece and Rome for inspiration, offering single-sail boats from that era. But you'll also have to fend off creatures from ancient myths.

Admittedly, the style of warmongering in Admiral Sea Battles is

#### by Tim Wapshott



Cannon fire from swashbuckling pirates rules the waves in Admiral Sea Battles

your foes' defences, but for a change the action brings to mind dashing heroes like Errol Flynn rather than the routine mindless might of a Sylvester Stallone. The SAS seem to be playing the

anonymous troops in Red Alert, the glossy sequel to Command and Conquer and perhaps the best war nothing new as you command an sim so far. Played out to a array of units to eventually erode soundtrack of your men continually confirming receipt of your instructions over field radio, the game looks smart and plays very smoothly. For more sea-faring ex-

ploits, Hasbro's Battleship is a makeover of the pen and paper game of the same name. If you want loud explosions and dramatic video clips mixed up with your guess-work, this could be for you. In the same PC CD-Rom series, Hasbro also translated the classic world conquest board-game Risk but I find its

appeal unsatisfying.
This all-singing, all-dancing version lets you play other human opponents over local networks or the internet. However, Hasbro's Risk mysteriously omits the option allowing two humans to com-

pete against each other on one computer. For years there have been plenty of tiny shareware Risk titles, such as Egarisk, which though basic mirrored the classic gameplay sufficiently well in versions which allowed two, three or more humans to battle it out on the same machine. It's a sad omission by Hasbro, since many households only have one computer and few board games lend themselves so well to noisy and prolonged family fun than Risk. Hopefully this simple exclusion will be fixed in later versions. In the meantime, if anyone has

come across a particularly compe-tent version of Risk which does accommodate two or more players on a single machine, I'd love to hear from you. The next appeal is on behalf of

Mrs J. Derwent of Daventry, Northants, who writes to say she is desperate to buy a hand-held Scrabble game, called Monty Plays Scrabble.

Combing the stands at the Toy and Hobby Fair recently didn't produce the answer, although I stumbled on plenty of portable parlour games - poker, one-armed bandits and so on - I drew the blank on finding a small Scrabble

So, it's over to you. Do you know where Mrs Derwent can get Monty Plays Scrabble, or something similar? All letters will be forwarded.

This week's Top Tip, winning him a Microsoft title, comes from Alex Butterworth, of Guildford, Surrey: "Surround your computer with a moat, to protect it against theft by soluble burglars."

No 1036

DOWN

(2,4)

2 Tightwad (5)

3 Stepped; "generations have

\_\* (Hopkins) (4)

6 Firing of bullet (7)

lope) (3.7)

given) (7)

4 Pacific warming current

5 One from Emeraid Isle (8)

7 Barset bishop's wife (Trol-

8 Share (one's) feelings (10)

14 Past misdemeanours (for-

12 With no visible join (8)

16 Condition; lands (6)

ACROSS

Tiny bit (of learning) (10) Siegfried -, war poet (7) 9 Deeper, ring on target (5) 10 Lime/clay fertiliser (4) 11 How the unprepared are caught (2,3.3)

13 John-; - Beardsley (6) 15 Indelible skin picture (6) 17 Ceremonious Catholic ser-

18 Amongst (4)

21 Char (5)

22 Diplomat: sort of case (7) 23 Methodical (10)

19 Speed of sound (4.1) 20 Sicilian volcano (4) **SOLUTION TO NO 1035** 

ACROSS: 4 Abbot 7 Hot water 8 Dice 9 Shrug off 10 Heckle 13 Kettle 14 Moment 15 Studio 18 Reassure 19 S 13 Kettle 14 Moment 15 Studio 18 20 Evensong 21 Liner DOWN: 1 Thrive 2 Streak 3 Hassle 4 Argument 5 Besotted 6. Trifle 11 Campaign 12 Landseer 14 Morsel 15 Sterne

16 Upshot 17 Indigo PRICES NOW INCLUDE FREE UK DELIVERY TO TIMES READERS (REST OF WORLD ADD SI PER ITEM). STERLING/US DOLLAR CHEQUES ONLY. (E)-US\$ LEST.

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Times

# No 3400: Wheeler-dealing by Sabre

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

EACH ROW and column comprises two words. entered cyclically, starting at an arbitrary square. All clues are normal, but three across and three down answers are thematically related, and must be replaced by six others of the same type before entry into the diagram. There are no unchecked letters; the solver need not enter bars.

ACROSS

Radical dignitary loves embraces Senses an unusual reason

Fish found in Baronet's bathroom fixture

Branchy neuromas lopped off Tight Greek character backs out of corset

Loses all hope here, as horse is in last place

Handy quantities — of dates? It stops dog biting Liberal

Foster-mother confronted young monkey! Remove old badger with tail docked

Like a crazy king — more cracked?
Tray catching hot ash, for example
Rope twisting round whale endlessly

Summer activity starts to confuse one riding to Showing doubt about the state of Woon-

Large bill apropos Terry's boxing Carp that started flatfish

Man on drugs, topless, came into local Sailor the French see in front gondola

Grampian bears heard in mist

socket's oracle?

English tan badly? Not in these scant swimming trunks

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One faithful cut pastor over bribe Itinerants are taken in by anglers Get used to wrong type of pen being mislaid

DOWN Cockney agitator, one working on US sub! Euro MP, coming on left wing, put on

committee Dales, mossy in middle, maybe

Coal, I see, ruined cotton cloth Crush recipe: plum cooked with hint of

eiderberry Impurities not seen in Diana Shame lecturer to make excel in studies St Andrew's turf, dishearteningly run wild

Overcast in west with no sign of it turning Sidecar, for example, set upright on rear end Company holds fantastic dance One in tree climbs a certain way

Word-play champion — bishop? Physician, oddly, earns silver money An erratic drunk causes delay Hairy creature swallowed by grandson One learned Valium must be re-ordered

Digs for coal, setting TNT with grunts One considering eating red-headed fish Topless hussy kissing cardinal: allowed in Fife Spies taitiess whale, one venerated by Romans

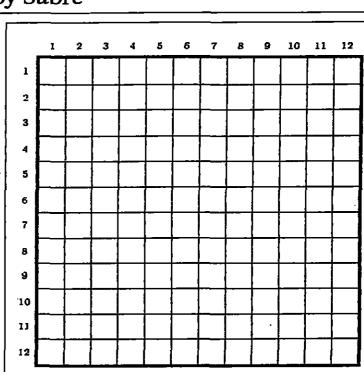
Stranger spins about megalopolis It's a silver coin-Hot air and phosphorus comprising bun preservative?

> Solution to No 3397 Rueoc ed Ire by Le Gallois Special clues comprise the "heart" (one or two liners) of each word in sequence leading to (A) Notices (17) Awed (14) Jest (21) Card (26) Meat (34) Years (37) Miss (38) Esser (44) Stone. 1 hown: (4) Part (5) Land (6) Spend (8) Kent (9) Pipe (2) (Seen (13) Card (16) Cord (19) Fog (24) Lamp

Hero/Leander (28) (B) Joan/Darby (10) (C) hthei/Remeu (33) (D) Iseult/Tristam (I) (E) Banale/Clyde (47) (F) Helen/Paris (2) (G) Eurydice/Orpheus (40) (H) Heloise/Abelard (6) Message at heart of public in shape of heart, hence quote (and title). Put to heart heart heart -Whitman (Fenguin Librionary of Quotations).

The winner is B. Roe of Wigston,

He fille runners-up are M. Taylor of Rogeicy, staffordshire: L. Mestel of Lewes. Subsex, A. () uggart of Bury St Edmunds, State is 'M' Chiley of Cillingham, Dorset, and I. Mackonosh of West Wickham, Kent.



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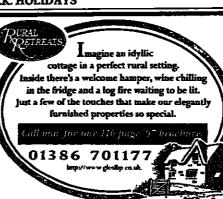
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